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Furious Major retaliates against beef ban

British pledge to paralyse EU

BY PHILIP WEBSTER POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR triggered Britain's biggest confrontation with Europe yesterday when, furious and feeling betrayed over its refusal to ease its beef ban, he declared that he was blocking all important progress in the European Union until further notice.

The Prime Minister delighted Tory MPs by announcing that until the ban on beef by-products was lifted and there was a clear "framework" for raising the wider embargo, he would veto all key EU decisions, stop any progress at the intergovernmental conference on the future of Europe, and disrupt next month's Florence summit.

His pledge to paralyse EU business came after he accused some of Britain's partners of a breach of faith in voting against the relaxing of the ban on Monday after giving indications of support.

The first effect of the new policy will be that Britain will maintain its opposition — which it had been ready to drop — to Europol, the embryo European police force. A new convention on insolvency procedures, due to be sealed this week, will also be blocked. Britain will also raise the beef ban at all meetings of European ministers, including those on unrelated issues such as social affairs and transport. EU officials accused Mr Major of acting for domestic electoral reasons, but said his move could cause havoc. The Brussels Commission, which supports the lifting of the by-products ban, showed its disapproval in a statement saying: "It is a problem for the whole of the European Union



"No, I've got absolutely no idea what the time is"

INSIDE 6 Major can turn the vexed issue of beef into the question of who is John Bull 9

— Leading article, page 19 Matthew Parris, page 2 Industry in limbo, page 10 Nicholas Budgen, page 18

and a solution can only be achieved through the proper functioning of the Union's institutions and procedures." German Radio described Mr Major's threat as "outright blackmail", but the Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel, took a milder line. "There is no doubt that Great Britain has been greatly affected," he said. "We have not yet reached a decision that would be satisfactory for Great Britain. We must continue to make efforts to do so."

The unexpected refusal of the veterinary experts to ease the ban on tallow, gelatin and bull semen left Mr Major feeling deeply let-down and spurred him to activate a contingency plan that had been discussed by Cabinet ministers for the past three weeks. The decision was taken yesterday morning in consultation with Malcolm Rifkind, Kenneth Clarke and others. Last night he told friends that, time and again, his European partners had not

kept their promises. He had "gone through Merry Hell to keep this Europe show on the road" but his partners had done nothing to help him.

His action left his party unusually united, although a number of pro-European backbenchers were privately voicing reservations. Most Tory MPs cheered wildly as the Prime Minister announced that he was doing what many have been urging for weeks. Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, said last night that he was delighted that the Prime Minister was taking such a firm line. Mr Major also appeared to catch Labour wrong-footed, with Tony Blair asking a series of questions rather than condemning or supporting the move. But Paddy Ashdown said that the Eurosceptic minority had taken control of foreign policy. "This has much more to do with appeasing them than with restoring confidence in the beef market," The Prime Minister said

that he was acting because the best scientific advice had been ignored "by a number of member states, in some cases despite prior assurances of support" — believed to be a sideswipe at Austria and Spain, who helped Germany to block progress in Brussels on Monday. "I regard such action as a wilful disregard of Britain's interests and, in some cases, a breach of faith. I cannot tolerate these interests being brushed aside by some of our European partners with no reasonable grounds to do so."

Mr Major went on to say that he was acting with reluctance, but he saw no alternative. "The European Union operates through goodwill. If we do not benefit from goodwill from partners, clearly we cannot reciprocate. We cannot continue business as usual within Europe when we are faced with this clear disregard by some of our partners of reason, commonsense and Britain's national interests."

Downing Street sources declined to see Mr Major's announcement as a "retaliatory action" and said it was not being done out of bloody-mindedness, but to defend the national interest.

Mr Major made plain that had no intention of boycotting EU meetings. Ministers would be there and arguing for the end of the beef ban wherever possible.

Government sources later made plain that ministers would not allow any decisions, even provisional ones, to be made at the intergovernmental conference. If it went ahead on issues without Britain, it would reopen them when the period of non-cooperation was over.



Vijay Negi, seven, who suffers from a rare blood condition and is one of two children to receive umbilical-cord cell transplants, recovering at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital yesterday. The second child had been dying of leukaemia. Story, page 3

MPs say lottery should give more to charity

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE National Lottery regulator should be stripped of some powers and the organiser Camelot should give more money to charity, MPs demanded yesterday.

A Commons report called on the National Heritage Secretary to review rules under which Olot, the regulator, appoints as well as supervises the company running the lottery.

The report by a Conservative-dominated committee says that there is a risk of "conflict of interest" if Peter Davis, as Olot's director-general, has responsibility for choosing and supervising the operator.

MPs voiced fears that Mr Davis had a unique role among regulators in appointing the operator and regulating its work.

"We therefore believe that the appointment of the same organisation to choose the operator and regulate its activities could give rise to conflicts of interest."

The cross-party National Heritage Select Committee pressed the National Heritage Secretary to review the role of Olot before the lottery licence comes up for renewal in 2001.

The Commons report also called for Camelot to hand over more of its profits to charities and criticised as "unacceptable" Camelot's decision to charge for the exclusive live television rights to broadcast the results of the weekly draw.

Olot said last night it would not comment until it had considered the proposals more closely, but insiders said that the "common interest" with Camelot in maximising proceeds was secondary to ensuring probity and protecting players' interests.

MP's criticism, page 9

Search for Land Rover

Detectives seeking the killer of Stephen Cameron in a "road rage" attack on a Kent roundabout are prepared to interview hundreds of Land Rover drivers. Officers are using the police national computer to try to find a match for the L-registration Land Rover Discovery and have already begun interviewing owners, in the Swanley area where the victim lived. Page 6

Rebel Tory MPs quit as aides

Two Tory MPs resigned last night as ministerial aides after voting against government plans to prevent groups with more than 20 per cent of national newspaper circulation bidding for independent television stations. Page 11

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Cancer drug creates instant millionaires

By ERIC REGULY

DIRECTORS and employees of a little-known pharmaceutical company made their fortunes yesterday after positive clinical results from a new cancer drug swept their firm into the big league.

The drug, called Marimastat, is designed to slow the spread of tumours in a broad range of cancers — and it is that versatility that is expected to be the secret of success. Shares in British Biotech, which has yet to make a profit, rose yesterday by 28p to £33.15, valuing the company at almost £2 billion. The rise comes on top of a 185p gain on Monday and leaves the firm on the verge of becoming one of the top 100 companies on the London Stock Exchange.

Almost all of Biotech's 350 employees, from lab assistants to research scientists, were given options last November to buy shares at £8.32 apiece.

And the soaring share price has made millionaires of up to 20 of them. Keith McCullagh, one of the founders who is now chief executive, has seen his basic stake rise to £27.2 million from £3.3 million in February last year. James Noble, the finance director, is currently sitting on a stake valued at about £7 million.

The success of Marimastat in the so-called Phase 2 trials means that the drug can now proceed to the final stage of testing, which gives it more than a 60 per cent chance of being marketed commercially. Analysts believe the drug has particular profit potential because it can be used to treat so many different kinds of cancer, including lung, pancreatic, ovarian, prostate and colorectal.

Shares soar, page 25

Hundreds killed in Lake Victoria ferry disaster

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

UP TO 600 people drowned yesterday when an overloaded Tanzanian ferry capsized and sank on Lake Victoria. Forty survivors were rescued from the crocodile-infested waters and 21 bodies were washed ashore. Last night officials said they had given up hope of finding more survivors.

The MV Bukoba, one of many steel-hulled diesel ferries plying a circuit round the

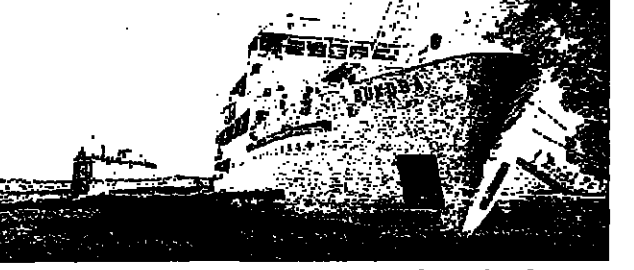
lake, had a legal capacity of 433 passengers, but officials admitted privately that she was carrying many more. She was on a regular run from Bukoba in Tanzania and went down at 8.10am when five miles short of Mwanza.

Previous ferry accidents on the lake have usually involved poorly maintained vessels caught in tropical storms at this time of year, the rainy

season, when 20ft waves are common. This was the worst disaster yet and it is unlikely there will be more survivors as most passengers were sitting in the hold. Some reports claimed she hit a rock and then capsized as two other ferries rushed to her aid. All 40 survivors were injured.

The lake's ferries are rarely used by tourists but are crammed with local people trading farm produce and fish. They also carry livestock and, in some cases, railway carriages are loaded, steamed across the lake and lifted back on to railway tracks to continue their journey.

Besides unpredictable weather, the lake is now plagued with another hazard for ships — a South American water hyacinth that has created impenetrable floating islands up to a mile square.



The Bukoba went down five miles from the shore

Lord King's coffee grounds the BA racketeers

By HARVEY ELLIOTT AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE small bag of coffee Lord King of Wartaby's chauffeur bought from a Grantham market stall seemed like a genuine bargain — until he saw from the logo printed on the bottom.

The British Airways president instantly recognised his airline's coat of arms on the foil bag and immediately contacted BA security

officers. They told him that they were already getting reports of other BA goods turning up in car boot sales, corner shops and market stalls all over the country.

The evidence produced by Lord King and his driver proved crucial in tracking down the gang, and six men have been charged with theft. They will appear in court soon.

The coffee, together with other goods ranging from sweets to miniature

bottles of drinks should have been used by BA on its international flights. But they seemed to be disappearing from delivery trucks.

Another group of thieves were apparently systematically taking drink, cigarettes and perfume from duty-free trolleys until "candid cameras" hidden inside the trolleys led to the arrest of almost 30 loaders, who will also appear in court soon.

The loaders had, it is alleged, been stealing duty free goods worth around £1 million as the trolleys were loaded and unloaded from aircraft. Possibly using duplicate keys the gang had found a way of opening the trolleys once the air hostesses had sealed them. The only way of identifying the culprits was to install hidden cameras and tape recorders in the trolleys.

As a result, more than 100 Metropolitan police officers made a series of raids on suspects' homes and offices.

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King John summons up the blood (and gelatin)

FORGET Trafalgar. Forget Waterloo. Soon a new name will head the roll-call of famous British victories. Florence. In tomorrow's schools, children will learn how justice triumphed and the wicked were confounded at the Battle of Florence.

Or so the Prime Minister seemed to promise yesterday.

That he is not by temperament suited to the role of Henry V on St Crispian's day made John Major's amiable intransigence the more shocking. His statement was delivered in a manner more tetchy than defiant. Only the surprised yelps of "Oh!" and the

rising bark of "Hear, hear!" from the benches behind him betrayed the astonishing nature of his text. Only a near-panic scribbling of notes by Tony Blair showed the ambush in which the Opposition seemed caught.

If Major's tone was unheroic, his subject was even less so. "God for Harry, England and St George!" has a ring. "God for tallow, semen, gelatin!" lacks it.

Nor had Major's supporting cast quite the sinew Shakespeare demands. Required to imitate the action of the tiger, Nicholas Winterbottom (C. Mac-



MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

desfield) imitated the action more of the turkey. Pink with emotion, he burst out: "My Rt Hon Friend has spoken for Britain!"

Sir Patrick Cormack (C. Staffordshire S), straining like a (portly) greyhound in the slips, disguised fair nature with hard-favoured rage, and, summoning up the blood, pledged "strong support".

How those Gucci shoes will stand up to the gore of the

Florentine field remains to be seen. As for Bill Cash (C. Stafford), the sight of this anti-European warrior briefly flustered as Major outflanked him on the Right was delicious.

Cash's hesitation did not last. Never one to be knowingly out-xenophobic, he suggested that Major should now default on Britain's payments to the European Union. Major refused. Nobody cheered Cash. The PM had positioned

himself shrewdly. This was clear from the unanimous support he received from his own side. Edwina Currie, remembering Nanny's advice that if you can't think of anything nice to say then say nothing, had sidled from the Chamber, looking positively queasy.

Sir Peter Tapsell (C. Lindsey E) reentered between the patriotic and the preposterous when he spoke of a "national crisis" in which the Opposition were "incapable of speaking for Britain", but he struck a nerve. They were all over the place. Paddy Ashdown stumbled unhappily in announcing

that "there are now abattoirs all across the country who have been ringing me and my colleagues up...". Hilary Drown, "After that," smiled Major. "I can only say that if abattoirs are ringing the Rt Hon Gentleman up, I daresay they are soliciting for custom."

Mr Blair seemed flummoxed. Retreating into re-priming, he never responded to the thrust of the PM's statement. The closest he came to a proposal was for "a massive information and propaganda exercise" to change European attitudes towards British beef. Whether through

a saturation leaflet-drop by the RAF or the jamming of continental radio broadcasts with a repeating "Buy our beef" jingle, he did not say.

And was it wise to criticise Major's announcement thus: "The language is strong but there is an absence of particulars"? A score of Tory fingers pointed, amid hoots, at Mr Blair.

Would the Prime Minister adopt a policy of "the empty chair" in Europe, asked Blair? Yesterday's performance left some with the impression the Labour leader might not need to vacate a chair to leave it empty.

One in 100 firearms requests is rejected

Police in England and Wales turned down only 1 per cent of applications for new shotguns and firearms certificates last year, according to Home Office figures yesterday. Fewer than 0.5 per cent of renewals for firearms were rejected and 200 firearms certificates were revoked.

The figures show that 1,296,000 shotguns and 409,000 firearms were legally held in England and Wales last year. Although the number of firearm certificates issued has risen for the past three years, the number of new certificates fell from 11,700 to 10,900 between 1994 and 1995.

Privacy law

A new law of privacy to protect ordinary people thrust into unsought limelight was called for by the Master of the Rolls, Sir Thomas Bingham, whose appointment as the next Lord Chief Justice is expected to be announced this week. Sir Thomas said the law should "strike only at significant infringements, such as would cause substantial distress to an ordinary phlegmatic person".

Trimble threat

David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, last night threatened to withdraw his crucial parliamentary support from the Government if John Major softens his stance over terrorist arms. In one of his strongest statements, Mr Trimble said that "any backsliding" would be regarded as a "fundamental breach of faith". The nine Ulster Unionist MPs could bring down the Government.

IRA jail switch

Brendan Dowd became the second IRA man to be transferred from a British prison to jail in the Irish Republic. Described at his 1976 trial as the main IRA organiser, he is serving a life sentence on three counts of attempted murder. After being sentenced, Dowd, 47, from Co Kerry, said he was responsible for bombings in Guildford and Woolwich, in which seven people died.

Annesley to retire

Sir Hugh Annesley announced that he would retire as Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary in November. Sir Hugh, 56, who was appointed in 1989, said: "It has been an absolute privilege and honour to lead this fine organisation. I will never forget the deep sadness and sorrow borne by a force which has... valiantly endured conditions far beyond the ordinary call of policing."

WPC in talks

Karen Wade, 27, the police officer who says there is near-constant sexual harassment in the West Yorkshire force, will meet senior officers later this week to discuss her future. She is appealing against an industrial tribunal's rejection on Monday of her sexual harassment claim against three officers at Holbeck police station in Leeds. She says she wishes to resume her police career.

County doored

Berkshire County Council's last-ditch survival effort has failed. It had appealed to the House of Lords against the Government's abolition proposals. But the Lords Appeal Committee yesterday ruled that the case would not be considered. The Government can now proceed with an order before Parliament setting out the county council's replacement by six unitary authorities.

Fish oil banned

Tesco will take all foods containing North Sea fish oil off its shelves within a year. The announcement follows a campaign against the use of fine mesh nets to catch eels used in the manufacture of margarine and biscuits. The eels are a vital source of food for fish and birds. Sainsbury's and the Co-Op have taken similar action.

Capp that, Andy

Andy Capp, the workshy cartoon character in the *Daily Mirror*, is the subject of a £2 million museum planned at Hartlepool, the home town of his creator Reg Smythe. The council wants National Lottery money for the project, to include a re-creation of the bar and sofa where Capp spends most of his time and audio-visual aids to bring the cartoon strip to life.

'Britain is a big player and not to be pushed around'

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

A MEETING between John Major and Kenneth Clarke, the Cabinet's leading pro-European, at 11am yesterday was crucial to the Prime Minister's dramatic announcement four hours later that Britain was effectively freezing relations with the European Union.

Cabinet ministers had been aware for about three weeks that the policy of non-cooperation in the EU was the one most likely to be adopted if the Government's hopes, repeatedly expressed, of a breakthrough on the beef ban were not realised.

A study by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, which was finalised last week, concluded that all the other measures being canvassed by Tory Eurosceptics - including retaliatory trade bans, withholding Britain's payments to the EU, or even going for De Gaulle's "empty chair" policy of not turning up to meetings - would either be illegal or counter-productive.

Neither was there great enthusiasm for the policy announced yesterday of blocking progress on all business. Ac-

cording to Whitehall sources, the full Cabinet discussed the options on several occasions. But the decision to go for broke yesterday was the Prime Minister's. He told colleagues: "Enough is enough."

With Conservative MPs baying for action, he was well aware that the failure of veterinary experts to lift even partially the ban on beef on Monday night would be seen as yet another kick in the teeth. According to a friend: "He knew that Douglas Hogg (the Agriculture Minister) would be torn limb from limb if he merely told us that it was unfortunate but that he was still trying and that, yes, the ban would soon be lifted."

So at 8am yesterday he had a "conference" telephone call with Mr Hogg, who was in Brussels preparing for another farm ministers' meeting, and Mr Rifkind who was in Strasbourg. It was agreed to go ahead with a plan that would almost certainly never have been unwrapped had the veterinary experts come to a different decision.

It was, according to sources close to Mr Major, a decision

taken "more in sorrow than anger". But he was also said to be genuinely upset at the way Britain had been treated. "He felt that a lot of people were letting him down - saying one thing, doing another." He told one friend: "I have been through merry Hell to keep this Europe show on the road. I have shown good faith to them. They have done nothing to help me."

He was particularly irritated at the behaviour of Spain, Portugal and The Netherlands, who had indicated they would support a lifting of the ban but changed their minds at the last moment. He told another friend: "Britain is being pushed around and I am not having the country treated like this. We are a big player."

The Prime Minister first had to confirm that Mr Clarke was on side. He had every reason to believe that he would be. The Chancellor apparently accepted during extensive correspondence that such action might eventually have to be taken.

But Mr Major had to be sure. He would not have been



John Major in the Commons yesterday. He was said to have made his decision "more in sorrow than anger"

able to announce the plan for a single currency referendum early in April without Mr Clarke's backing. Throughout the beef dispute Mr Clarke, along with Michael Heseltine, the Cabinet's other big Euro enthusiast, have been constantly arguing for negotiation rather than retaliation.

However, according to his friends Mr Clarke did not put up a fight yesterday. He was

reported reluctantly to have accepted that the rejection of the lifting of the ban, particularly after some countries had indicated to Britain that they would be voting to help Britain, could not go without a response. He accepted that the diplomatic avenues had been exhausted. The attraction of the blocking option was that it was not illegal, said friends.

The Chancellor would not have backed any action that was illegal, said a source close to Mr Clarke. "He accepted, with regret, that this was the only course open."

After Mr Clarke was firmly on board Mr Major then made sure that everyone else in the Cabinet knew what he was doing. Mr Rifkind arrived at Heathrow at 12.30pm and the two spoke again on the telephone. The Foreign Secre-

tary then sped to Downing Street for another chat with the Prime Minister. Mr Heseltine was informed in China. All other Cabinet ministers and the Attorney-General were informed.

Mr Major's move has changed the mood among Tory MPs. One said: "Whether it gets the ban lifted or not, I don't know, but at last we're doing something."

The crunch for Mr Major's hopes of effective troublemaking would come at the regular summer summit in Florence on June 21 and 22. EU summits usually issue long written "conclusions", which then guide policies for months or years to come. The 14 other governments could reach and write decisions but they could not have the force of summit guidelines. Non-cooperation would delay yet further the implementation of the Europol agreement on police co-operation. Britain derailed the scheme last summer over a dispute on the power of the European Court of Justice.

Nuisance tactics will delay, rather than paralyse, EU business

JOHN MAJOR has chosen to make Britain a nuisance in the committee rooms and corridors of the European Union rather than to start guerrilla warfare: if his threat not to co-operate with EU decisions is carried out, British ministers and officials will delay, rather than paralyse, EU business.

The Prime Minister has rejected three more drastic options with which he could have faced his partners: refusing to obey EU law, stopping British payments to its budget or leaving an "empty chair" in meetings. His intention appears to be generate a drama without

John Major has rejected the most drastic means of retaliation against Britain's partners. He appears to be wanting to create a drama without triggering a crisis, writes George Brock, European Editor

triggering the sort of crisis that would call Britain's membership into question.

Mr Major has uttered his threat during one of the EU's fallow periods. The rotating presidency is held by Italy, whose stewardship of the vast network of committees and councils has been hobbled by a

recent general election and change of government. The inter-governmental conference to revise the Maastricht treaty has only just begun work and the real horse-trading is unlikely to start until at least the autumn.

The statement to the House of Commons yesterday left British

ministers and officials some margin to choose which business they might disrupt by refusing to agree decisions. Technically, every joint foreign policy initiative taken by the EU must be agreed by all states.

Britain could halt the ceaseless flow of brief Brussels communiqués which express unexceptional opinions on global events ranging from elections in Palestine to riots in Peru. Decisions on diplomatic missions by the Irish, Italian and Spanish ministers who currently represent the EU abroad must be made by unanimity, so non-cooperation by Malcolm Rifkind, the

Foreign Secretary, could keep them at home.

If non-cooperation begins immediately, its first test will occur at one of the least important gatherings of ministers, the Civil Protection Council, usually attended by a Home Office Minister. All the council's business is settled by unanimity and tomorrow's meeting could be prevented from taking any decisions at all. The leader of the Cabinet hawks, Michael Howard, is due in Luxembourg early next month for a meeting with a 23-item agenda. Each item needs unanimity and is theoretically vulnerable.

The need for unanimous voting means Britain would have the power to block decisions on foreign policy, justice, immigration and asylum. On that front, the next target could be work on a common stand on racism and xenophobia early next month. Unanimous voting is also required to approve changes in taxation. In senior EU appointments and the allocation of state aid as well as the shifting of funds within the EU budget and research spending.

A victim of this could be President Jacques Santer's plan to move excess funds in the farm budget to pay for job-creating investment in transport.

Diplomats from other states were incredulous that Britain could resort to what sounded like a policy resembling the empty chair over a crisis that is widely seen in the rest of Europe to be self-inflicted.

As farm ministers left Brussels, several criticised Britain for continuing to fail to take the measures needed to begin restoring public confidence. "It's important that they don't just promise measures, but they also apply them," said Wilhelm Molterer, the Austrian minister.

While the Germans remained adamant that it was far too early to consider lifting any of the ban, Philippe Vasseur, the French minister, said France wanted to avoid alienating Britain further.

Hard line will 'damage prospects for progress'

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN BRUSSELS

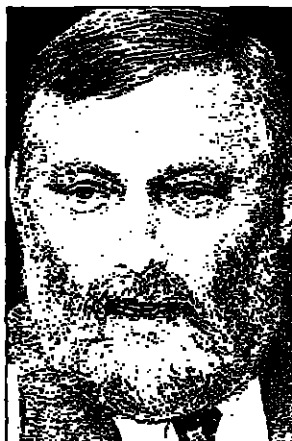
The European Commission voiced dismay yesterday over Britain's threat to obstruct EU business and suggested this would only complicate its own attempts to persuade member states to start lifting the ban on beef products.

Officials said talk of British retaliation was only likely to harden attitudes in Germany and the other six member states which, on Monday blocked moves to ease the ban on beef products. "Perhaps John Major wants to crank up the pressure, but there's a danger he will upset the progress we are already making," an official said.

In a formal reaction, the Commission said the beef problem affected all member states and not just Britain. "It is therefore a problem for the whole of the European Union and a solution can only be achieved through the proper functioning of the Union's institutions and procedures which is in all Member states' interests to safeguard."

The Commission is due today to endorse a new attempt to win over reluctant states at a farm ministers' meeting on June 3 in favour of a partial lifting of the ban. But there was no support for agreeing a timetable for lifting the overall quarantine on British beef.

Franz Fischer, the EU Farm Commissioner, who is leading the drive to ease the ban, said "the Commission is doing everything in its power to try to convince the member states that our approach is the correct one." It was vital, however, he said, for Britain to help win back consumer confidence by being seen to comply



Fischer: backs easing EU restrictions on beef

with its commitments on eradicating BSE.

The strength of Mr Major's ultimatum sparked some alarm over in the EU's institutions. No state since Charles de Gaulle's France in 1965 has undertaken a policy of total obstruction.

EU insiders questioned the likely effectiveness of a British non-cooperation drive beyond mild disruption. The Intergovernmental Conference, the Maastricht treaty review which Mr Major cited as a possible target, still has a year to run, with no hard decisions expected for months.

More serious is the prospect that the Florence EU summit in late June could be held in a state of partial blockade. Among targets for blockage is Europol, the embryo European police agency which has already been held up for a year over British objections.

British spoiling tactics could also rob the summit of planned endorsements of a progress report on the IGC and of a framework agreement on aspects of monetary

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Baby's umbilical cord could save his brother's life

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

A BOY of four who was dying of leukaemia has become the recipient of Britain's first umbilical-cord cell transplant after the birth of his baby brother.

The boy, known only as Bilal, comes from Glasgow and was born with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, which affects 650 British children a year. The disease is extremely rare in infants under one, but is often fatal in that age group.

The transplant of stem cells from the umbilical cord of his brother Aadi was carried out by Dr Brenda Gibson, a consultant haematologist at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, in Yorkhill, Glasgow, in April. Bilal has been in remission since. Doctors say it is too early to talk of a cure.

Stem cells form the building blocks for blood, encouraging blood-cell production and duplication. Like a bone-marrow

transplant, they can be used to help a leukaemia patient to produce new, uncontaminated blood. The umbilical cord is a particularly rich source of stem cells.

Shortly after Bilal's transplant, the same procedure was carried out on a second child, Vijay Negi, 7, from north London. Vijay, who suffers from Fanconi anaemia, a rare blood condition, had his operation at the Hospital for Sick Children, in Great Ormond Street, London, on April 23.

Dr Paul Vey, consultant in bone-marrow transplant at Great Ormond Street, said there was no cure for Vijay other than a stem-cell transplant. He is now making a good recovery.

The success of the two operations could have wide-ranging consequences for adults and children with leukaemia for whom no suitable bone-marrow donor can be

found. The Blood Transfusion Service is in the early stages of setting up an umbilical-cord bloodbank. Unlike bone-marrow donation, which requires a general anaesthetic and can be painful, cord-cell donation is relatively easy and painless.

Dr David Grant, scientific director of the Leukaemia Research Fund, said: "This is an exciting step forward because, once perfected, this technique will mean very many more patients who require a transplant will be able to have one."

Bilal has been treated at the Royal Hospital since he was two days old. A compatible bone-marrow could not be found as most donors in Britain are of north European origin and Bilal is Asian.

Last year, when his mother was pregnant with Aadi, Bilal suffered a relapse. His mother was told that there was a one-in-four chance of blood from Aadi's umbilical cord providing a match. After Aadi was born in January, the cord was clamped and blood was drawn off by needle. It was frozen while Bilal had more chemotherapy.

The transplant, similar to a blood transfusion, was carried out on April 4 when he was in remission. The procedure took only 20 minutes.

Aadi was not conceived as a potential donor for Bilal, Dr Gibson emphasised. "Aadi was conceived for himself. He is a very much loved and wanted child, a special child." She said that she would consider Bilal on the road to recovery if his leukaemia did not return for a year. "With this kind of leukaemia the period of remission between relapses tends to get shorter and shorter."



Bilal with five-month-old Aadi. Blood cells from Aadi's umbilical cord were transplanted into Bilal

Lifeline for the foetus is too often discarded as useless after birth

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

ALL mammals depend on the umbilical cord and placenta while they are in the womb. After birth, however, these organs have largely been treated as rubbish and incinerated.

Some placentas have been used to extract useful products, such as albumin and the active ingredient of a drug used to treat a rare condition called Gaucher's disease. But it takes one and a half tons of human placenta a month to provide sufficient material to treat a single patient.

Among a small group of New Age mothers, eating the placenta has acquired a cer-

tain vogue. The belief is that this will protect them against post-natal depression. They describe the taste as gamey, like liver.

An equally improbable use is to take the placenta home and bury it. This is supposed to bring good luck, and the plant under which it is buried may be named after the child.

Placentas are undoubtedly nutritious. Last month an inquiry opened in Switzerland into charges that placentas from Zurich maternity clinics had been mixed with animal offal and turned into food for pigs and chickens.

In the past ten years, spe-

cialists have realised that the umbilical cord contains material far too good to waste. The first transplant using umbilical blood was reported in 1989 in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, but too few such transplants have been done to be sure that the technique is an improvement on bone-marrow transplants.

In the United States, some mothers are being encouraged to retain umbilical cord blood on the off-chance that it may prove useful to their child in later life. The procedure is not cheap, costing anything from \$300 to \$1,500, with annual storage charges of \$75 to \$150.



Two thirds of all adults questioned had no idea who fought at Agincourt. Mary Evans Picture Library

Britons lose 1066 in the mists of time

By Alan Hamilton

A QUARTER of all adults questioned in a survey of British history did not know the significance of 1066, two thirds had no idea who fought at Agincourt and more than half did not know who was involved in the Battle of Goose Green.

Staff at Warwick Castle put a history questionnaire to 600 people in Birmingham, Manchester and Bristol. Of those teenagers questioned in the survey, one third thought that Thomas Chippendale was a bodybuilder, and half of all those asked thought Capability Brown rose to fame as a military general.

Of all English battles, Naseby was the least known, with three quarters of those asked being unable to name either side. Half did not know who was involved in the Battle of the Somme and the same proportion had no idea who fought in the Wars of the Roses, or in the English Civil War.

Fewer than one seventh of those asked knew that the Wars of Roses had occurred in the 15th century and the

Civil War in the 17th. The most recognised historical figure, known to almost all, was Sir Winston Churchill, and although most knew that Henry VIII had ordered the execution of Anne Boleyn, a mere quarter knew that Charles I was the only English monarch to be executed.

Two-thirds, however, knew of Oliver Cromwell. More than half knew that a portulacis was a strong iron gate and that a fletcher was a maker of arrows but fewer than one seventh knew that a gardener was a medieval lavatory. The great majority knew of jousting and half knew that a motte and bailey was a design of medieval castle.

Warwick Castle commissioned the survey after staff expressed surprise at the questions asked by visitors. Sarah Montgomery, general manager of the castle, said: "We thought many of the questions we are regularly asked about British history would be general knowledge, but it is always dangerous to assume."



A batsman strides past the protected green winged orchids growing on the pitch at the Earl of Bessborough's Stansted Park cricket club in West Sussex

Orchid in outfield defies law of cricket

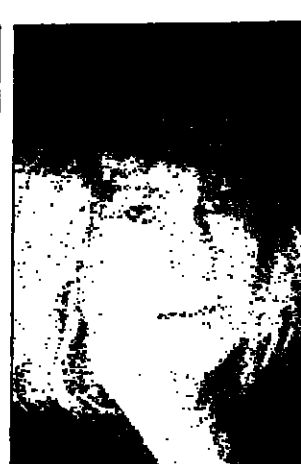
By Michael Hornsby

CRICKETERS are taking unusual steps to avoid treading on wild orchids. Such is the importance of the five-inch high green winged orchids that have sprung up in the outfield at the Earl of Bessborough's Stansted Park cricket club in West Sussex that a plastic cage has been placed over them to protect it from fielders' boots.

Lord Bessborough's agent, Captain John Gowen, said: "We have been told it would be impossible to move the orchid without killing it. The relationship between the orchid and the fungus upon which it feeds is so delicate that any movement could prove fatal to the flower. Apparently the roots travel 30 feet away searching for food."

The cerise-coloured blooms are growing at short mid-wicket at the pavilion end. There have been several close calls, with balls narrowly missing the plastic cage and fielders in hot pursuit just managing to step over the flower at the last moment.

The club's biggest worry if the orchids survive over the next fortnight is the possibility that they might produce other groups of flowers on the outfield that would also have to be protected. Michael Prior, the estate's head forester, said: "The conditions on the outfield are perfect for growing orchids because it has never been reseeded or sprayed with chemicals."



Louise Westlake

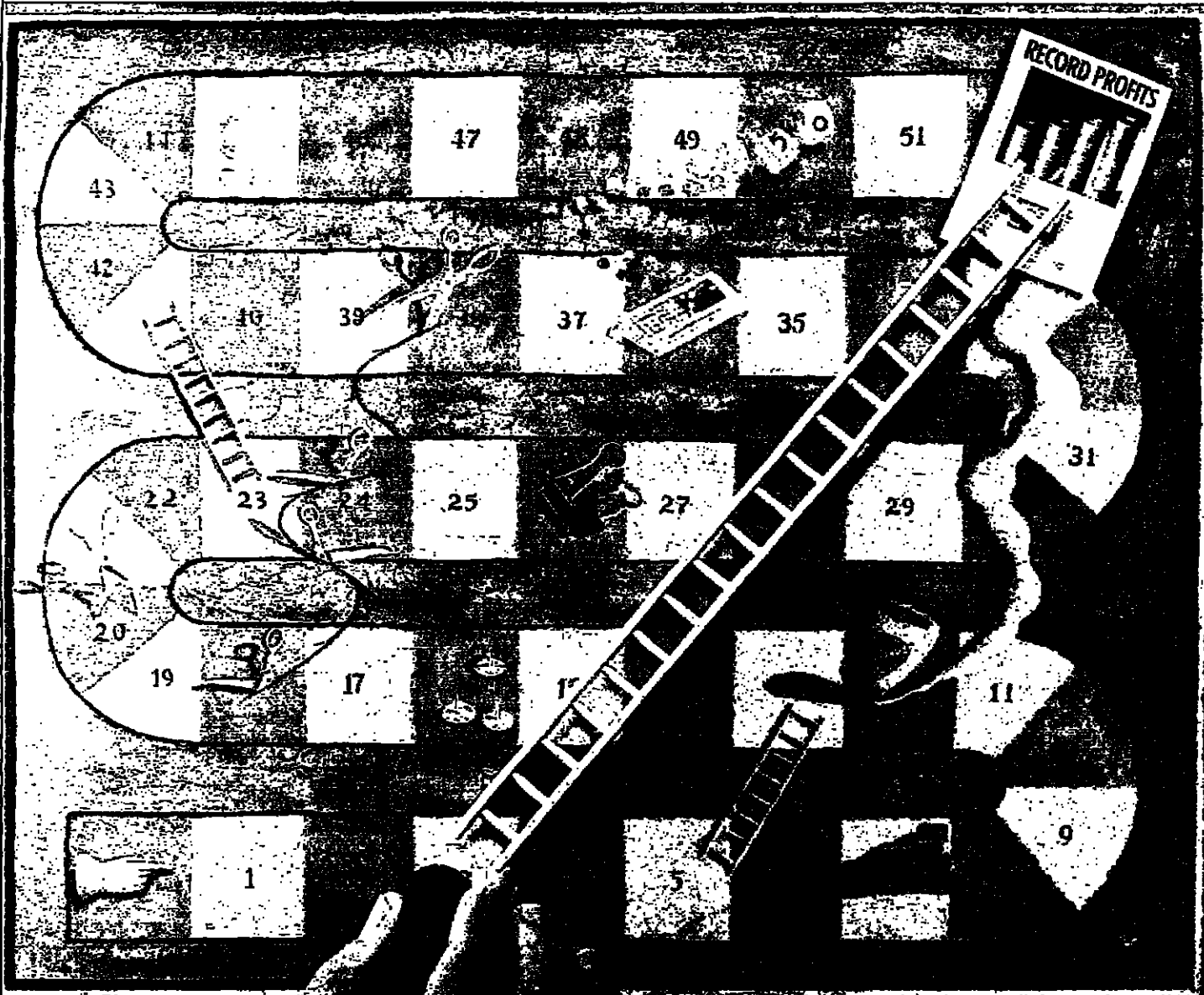
Hotel sued over allergy that killed

A HOTEL is being sued by the father of a woman with a rare allergy who died soon after eating bread spread with butter containing walnuts.

An inquest earlier this year recorded an accidental death verdict on Louise Westlake, 27, who died at the Hilton Hotel at Manchester Airport. Her father David, from Bristol, said yesterday that the legal action was aimed at getting hotels and restaurants to provide detailed information about the food contents of their menu.

Mr Westlake, 56, said: "It will cost us a lot of money. We are not seeking a redress but are determined to make restaurants and cafes learn to be more responsible and state clearly where nuts are used in recipes. I just want someone to admit liability for this death."

A spokesman for Hilton Hotels would not comment yesterday.



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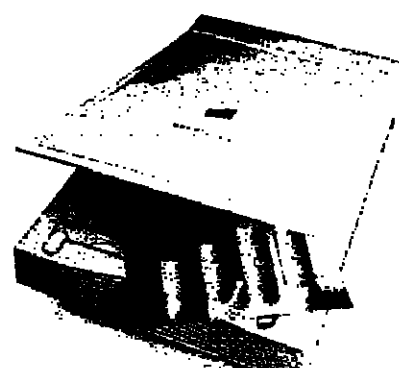
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Americans tempt City lawyers with £700,000 salary

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

AN ELITE band of solicitors in London is poised to join a new superleague of high earners after an advertisement by an American law firm yesterday for three partners to be paid up to £700,000 a year.

The salary is believed to be the highest advertised in legal circles and reflects American firms' eagerness to take business and staff from the big City law firms.

The advertisement in *The Times* offering a salary of £200,000 to £700,000, was placed by the New York-based firm Chadbourne & Parke. It wants to boost its London office in the lucrative area of project and corporate finance.

A salary at the top end of that scale would put solicitors in the same league as the director of a large company or Stan Collymore, England's most expensive footballer, who earns £750,000 a year.

At least that amount is earned by a handful of the top

Queen's Counsel, who include Michael Beloff, Anthony Gribbler, Peter Goldsmith, Sydney Kentridge and Jonathan Sumption, and senior partners of the biggest City firms. Some make about £1 million a year.

Top-earning City partners, however, unlike Americans, are required to reinvest a significant some of their earnings into their firm to cover liabilities such as the office lease. Also, American lawyers are paid on merit rather than on strict seniority, so they can command large salaries at a young age. The figure is likely to include a basic minimum salary, with the rest dependent on work brought in.

Michael Chambers, a legal recruitment consultant and editor of *Commercial Lawyer*, said: "The big hitters on the Wall Street firms are now getting some \$1.5 million, about £1 million."

The six-figure sums are in stark contrast to the earnings of most barristers and solicitors, particularly those who undertake legal aid work. Dave McNeill, spokesman for the Law Society, said: "A quarter of solicitors earn less than senior school teachers. These kind of salaries are earned by a tiny minority, they are beyond the wildest dreams of most of the profession."

About 800 sole practitioners are now earning less than £10,000 a year. Chadbourne & Parke's advertisement, in the Legal Appointments section of *The Times*, said the "top priority is to attract extremely competent practitioners, not their clients". The firm also has offices

in Washington, Los Angeles, Moscow and Hong Kong. It said it was one of the pre-eminent firms in project finance, with more than 80 projects in over 30 countries.

Martha Klein, Editor of *The Expatriate Adviser*, a magazine for American lawyers, said: "UK firms have been more aggressive than US firms in opening offices in Europe and Asia, and UK law often governs project and corporate finance deals on those continents. So global-minded American law firms want to hire UK lawyers to stay on top of the competition and they are willing to pay exorbitant prices to get them."

The previous highest advertised salary for a British lawyer was £450,000, also for a US law firm which was not identified. Earlier this year Maurice Allen, a top partner at Clifford Chance, moved to Weil Gotshal & Manges for a rumoured £500,000 a year.



Former members of the special forces regiment at a Carlton press conference yesterday, defying MoD anger

SAS veterans return fire on critics

By Michael Evans

THREE former members of the SAS who will feature in a televised re-enactment of their part in the 1980 storming of the Iranian Embassy yesterday defied critics who accuse them of giving away professional secrets.

Dressed in balaclavas and black clothing, they appeared at a press conference in London to promote a seven-part documentary about the SAS. Two other former SAS men who operated secretly in Northern Ireland and the Falklands were also present. One of them said: "We

would give nothing away that would operationally jeopardise the effectiveness of the regiment nor the integrity of the regiment."

The men's press appearance and paid involvement in the documentary are the latest episodes in an increasingly bitter dispute between the Ministry of Defence and the special forces regiment over the disclosure of past operations. Three weeks ago Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said that secrecy was vital because "otherwise the safety of our soldiers could be put in jeopardy and terrorists and others could have advan-

tages they should not have". Steve Clark, controller of factual programmes for Carlton Television, maker of the documentary series which begins on May 30, said: "We have taken great care to ensure that the series does not in any way compromise the operations of the SAS or give away strategies or operational techniques of the regiment."

The MoD's legal advisers are examining ways of introducing a new contract for members of the special forces that would bind them to lifelong secrecy more effectively than clauses in the Official Secrets Act.



Beloff: among the legal profession's top earners

'We're as popular as axe murderers'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

FOR a corporate lawyer in New York, the annual pay packet of £700,000 is "not unusual", said Raoul Felder, but the downside was that you are loathed by the rest of society. "They are the biggest bandits of all and have been orchestrating the rape of America for the past century."

Mr Felder, Manhattan's leading divorce attorney, had the decency to admit that his own branch of the legal profession was even less popular than corporate lawyers — "as far as the public are concerned we fall between axe murderers and second-hand car salesmen" — but he described corporate specialists as "sharks" who in New York, at least, regularly received more than £650,000 a year when partners.

William Fry, director of HALT, a legal reform pressure group based in Washington DC, suspected that the London advertisement was a shameless bid for a "top name", perhaps someone with political contacts, or someone who would bring kudos to a new office. Premiums are also paid for lawyers

who can poach business from other firms. American attorneys have a euphemism for when colleagues bring in new clients. It is called "making it rain", perhaps in tribute to the Red Indian-style dancing that occurs in a Manhattan law office when a substantial fee payer has been grabbed.

Mr Fry thought the £700,000 "high", and a match for anything paid by the top corporate law partnerships on the east coast of the United States. "Law firms here are unembarrassed about buying talent," he said. "It conveys quite the wrong impression. Law is supposed to be a profession, but it is fast becoming a business." A top 24-year-old law school graduate in the United States can expect a starting salary of at least £54,000, he added.

However, corporate law is no match for America's celebrity lawyer circuit. The likes of F. Lee Bailey, Robert Shapiro and Johnnie Cochran, all of whom were involved in the defence of O.J. Simpson, have millions in the bank, and are able to run private aeroplanes and several houses.

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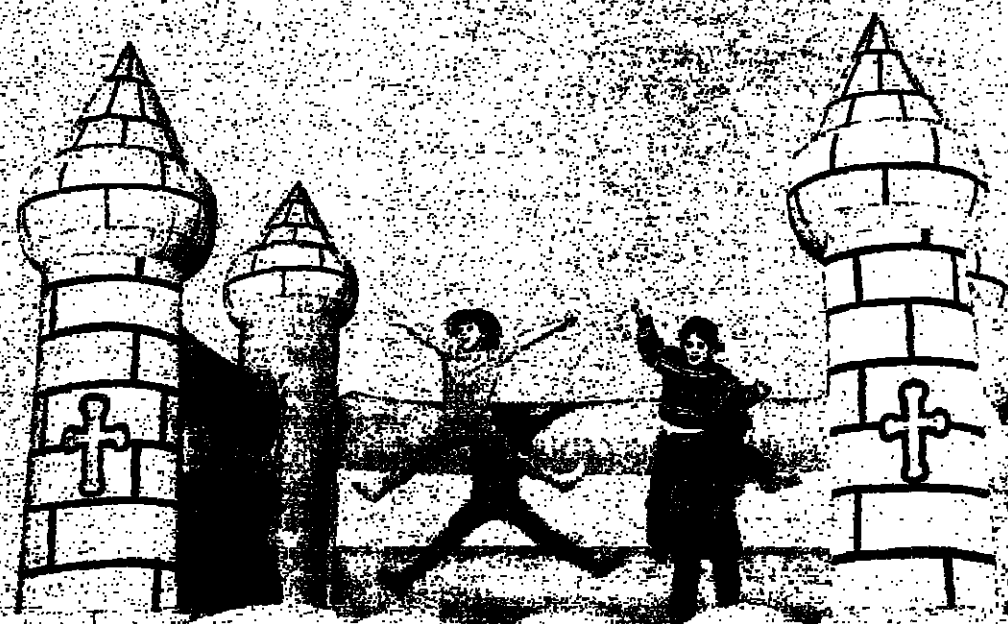
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Victim only shook his head at motorist, say police preparing to interview 1,000 Land Rover owners

Road rage killing 'unprovoked'



The E-fit picture of the man police want to trace

BY ADRIAN LEE

A MOTORIST who was stabbed to death during a "road rage" attack did nothing to provoke his killer other than shake his head in disapproval at a poor overtaking manoeuvre, police said yesterday.

Detectives have begun interviewing owners of Land Rovers fitting the description of the vehicle driven by the man who stabbed Stephen Cameron, 21, at a roundabout near Swanley, Kent.

Kent police issued an "E-fit" an electronically created picture, of the suspect yesterday. Other Land Rover Discovery drivers have come forward to

eliminate themselves from the investigation and detectives said there were fewer than 1,000 vehicles in the country that could be a match.

Other witnesses have given additional, but conflicting, registration numbers and letters, which are being fed into the police national computer.

Detective Superintendent John Grace said it now appeared there had been a scuffle before Mr Cameron was stabbed, on Sunday afternoon, and the suspect could have slight injuries or bruising. Roadside cameras have not yet provided any leads.

The killer was driving at speed around the junction

when he overtook and cut in front of Mr Cameron and his fiancée, who were on their way to east London to buy bagels for family and friends.

"The only gesture that Stephen made was shaking his head," said Detective Superintendent Grace. "It was an act of resignation, the sort of thing we might all do. It is reasonable. We all see bad driving."

Michael Cameron spoke of his family's grief and that of his brother's fiancée, who has asked not to be named. Mr Cameron, 33, a photographer, said his brother was not a fighter but would protect his girlfriend. "He would put himself in the front line for

anyone. He would be fearless in protecting his loved ones. He obviously saw a threat."

The dead man and his fiancée, who were engaged at Christmas, planned to marry within a year. He had just formed his own business, in electrical engineering, with a cousin.

Mr Cameron appealed for help in the murder hunt. He said: "Stephen was the gentlest, kindest soul and now he is gone. He said his brother and fiancée, a 17-year-old waitress, were devoted to each other. She is showing strength that I find humbling. She is a support to us by her example."



Michael Cameron, with his wife Mandi, appeals for help in catching the killer

Primitive response turns us into savages behind the steering wheel

BY KEVIN EASON
MOTORING EDITOR

ROAD rage is a Stone Age reaction to 20th-century pressures that may be beyond the control of the normally placid aggressor.

The physiological and psychological processes that can turn ordinary people into ranting and sometimes violent motorists begin the moment they get into their

vehicle, scientists say. Heart rate and blood pressure increase and muscle groups tense. An incident such as being cut up on a motorway creates a rush of adrenaline that helps to release aggression designed to protect — but which may trigger violence so great that not even the driver understands what he or she is doing.

Conrad King, the RAC's adviser on psychology, said yesterday that

motorists were simply showing Stone Age responses. Drivers packed bumper-to-bumper on congested roads reacted in the same way as creatures in overcrowded spaces: they fought for more space and freedom, but did so from inside their cars, which they saw as a suit of armour protecting them from real injury.

Mr King said: "When people climb into their cars, they are

already conditioned so that their blood pressure might rise and heart rate increase. When they are driving, they often drift on to autopilot, which is almost subconscious and does not come from the logical cortex of the brain.

"That means they are driving using the reactive part of the brain, which also governs the most basic fear and flight responses. When something happens, there is a flood

of endorphins and adrenalin into the system but the driver is confined in the car so there is no chance of physiological release. They need that release and road rage seems to be the result.

"Sometimes the motorist feels outside looking in — lucid but almost dreamlike — but feels as though they cannot stop themselves from acting. The body seems to push them into this fit of rage."

Telling drivers to count to ten is probably a waste of time, but Mr King said that they should decide before starting a journey that they were going to drive sensibly and safely.

"One thing that people can do is to cut their speed. If you find you are on a motorway and getting stressed, then driving 10mph slower and telling yourself it just doesn't matter that you cannot overtake

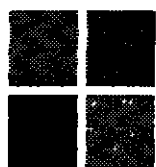
will help to change your attitude. Just relax, because criticising other drivers is the easy route to finding you are a victim of road rage."

The RAC says that drivers convicted of road rage attacks should lose their licences until they complete counselling or rehabilitation. It believes that some drivers may be unable to change behaviour until they are forced to confront the reality that they are violent.

Start Windows 95

Still waiting for something better than Windows 95?

Here's something to read while you wait.



There's no hurry to buy. It's sure to be followed by a newer, shinier version. Windows 2000 has a kind of ring to it. There are bound to be a few little refinements they want to make.

Let them get their act together. That's strange. A lot of my business friends seem to have it already. Ah well. Fools rush in.

They say the new operating system is easier, more intuitive. They say it recognises new software really easily. And hardware too. Plug and play, as they say.

They don't know how they lived without it. They're so impressed with this 32-bit technology, it's clouded their judgement.

"99% of those using Windows 95 in organisations say they're satisfied?" Mugs! Corporate lackeys!

I'm positive there's something better round the corner. I've read science fiction books.

There are going to be computers connected to televisions that communicate via telepathy.

So I can't see the point of diving in.

OK. So there are better Internet abilities and better switching between applications.

Bound to go wrong.

They've got 20 million users already, apparently.

But all software comes with a few problems.

OK. So they tested it thoroughly. A million testers, they reckon. The biggest pre-test ever. Ironed out all the problems beforehand. My foot.

Must say, my business friends are doing very well at the moment. Productivity pay-rises and the like.

What was it they said? "Over three years, Windows 95 will save them £1,000" in management costs for every PC they run?"

But you wait. I'll have the last laugh.

Now they're offering a 30 day money back guarantee. What a give away.

You buy Windows 95 and if you're not completely satisfied, they'll give you your money back.

Do me a favour.

You know what will happen. Day 31, all the problems start.

Yes, I know what the Wall Street Journal said.

"After 6 months Windows 95 has proved itself a solid and reliable product."

But what does Wall Street know? Where is Wall Street?

And PC Magazine, that most respected and impartial of journals, says "When it comes to comparisons Windows 95 is in a class of its own."

I'll reserve judgement if it's all the same, thank you.

No harm in waiting.

You know, this daytime television's not so bad.

I certainly won't be calling for more information on 0345 00 2000; extension 191. But you might.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Bonham to pay costs of £20,000

The auctioneer Nicholas Bonham, who was acquitted at the Old Bailey last week of causing death by dangerous driving, was ordered yesterday to pay defence costs estimated at £20,000. Judge Collins said it would "fly in the face of common sense and ordinary justice" for the taxpayer to bear the cost of the trial. Bonham, 47, of Battersea, south London, hit Eric Franklin, 56, on a pedestrian crossing.

Venables defeat

Terry Venables, the England coach, failed to win back the main asset of Edennote, his insolvent firm. The Court of Appeal upheld an order cancelling the sale to him of Edennote's interest in a £1 million damages claim pending against Spurs.

Titles to be sold

The Marquess of Bristol, 41, who has fought a long-running battle against drugs, is selling nine of his family's lordship of the manor titles to help to pay for his new life in the Bahamas. The titles, all in Suffolk, are expected to fetch £5,000 to £10,000 each.

Oyston jury out

Jurors trying Owen Oyston on two rape charges were sent home for the night after telling Liverpool Crown Court that they had failed to reach verdicts during more than two hours of deliberations. Oyston, 62, of Lancaster, denies the charges.

Cliff fall remand

Mark Evans, 18, of Ramsgate, was remanded on bail by the town's magistrates charged with the manslaughter of Neil Harvey-Jones, 20, and Samantha Edwards, 16, both from Ramsgate. They died when the van they were in plunged down a cliff.

£1m ship fire

Repairs to the mincher HMS *Hurworth*, which caught fire after a night exercise in the Channel on May 1, will cost up to £1 million. The ship's 18ft funnel collapsed during the blaze, which was extinguished within 20 minutes.

Walk this way

Farmers and other landowners promised to increase public access to the countryside, under the Country Landowners' Association's Access 2000 scheme. It aims to improve the quality, variety and quantity of public access in the next millennium.



Thornton: second trial

Thornton 'endured marriage torment'

SARA THORNTON, on trial for the second time for the murder of her husband, was portrayed yesterday as a mentally unstable but loving wife who endured a violent and chronically alcoholic husband. Thornton will not be giving evidence in the trial, the jury was told.

Michael Mansfield, QC, opening the case for the defence at Oxford Crown Court, said Thornton's marriage had presented a "volcanic situation". Malcolm Thornton was regularly "out for the count".

"He was a chronically alcoholic father who was barely sober," he said. He could be unpredictably volatile and would spend the couple's money with little regard for his wife and daughter Luisa. "But this is someone, other people have said very clearly in the witness box, that she loved. We get to stages where we hate who we love. It can be two sides to the same coin."

Thornton, 39, whose retrial was ordered last year by the Court of Appeal, denies murdering Mr Thornton, her second husband, by stabbing him once in the chest as he lay drunk on the sofa at their home at Atherstone, Warwickshire, on June 13, 1989.

Mr Mansfield dismissed the prosecution's claim that financial gain was Thornton's principal motive in the killing. "What is standing between him and his drink? Who has got the courage to stand between him and his drink?" he said. "He was a big man, much bigger than her. He wants his drink, who is in between? Someone has got to pick up the pieces day by day."

Mr Mansfield told the jury Thornton suffered from a "histrionic disorder", also termed "dissociation", where she separated herself from her emotions. The disorder went back to the age of 17. There were early suicide attempts and aged 22 she was treated for mental illness, he said.

The retrial continues.

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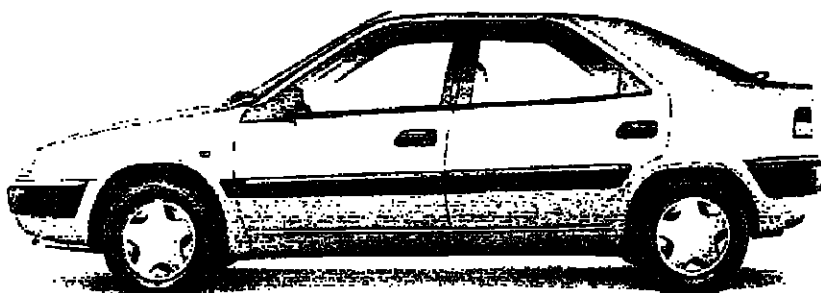
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Eurostar promotes Paris for pairs at £99 return

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE struggling Eurostar service was relaunched yesterday with a package of new fares, including a £49 lowest return ticket to Paris and Brussels and a £99 service to the South of France.

The marketing blitz is backed by a £10 million advertising campaign, masterminded by Virgin Group, a member of the London & Continental Railways consortium that takes over as operator of the loss-making Eurostar from European Passenger Services (EPS) next month. Richard Branson, Virgin's chairman, pledged to double the number of passengers to six million within a year and to 30 million by the end of the century.

The summer promotions, most of which start in the middle of next month, include a £49 student fare to Paris or Brussels from London, a combined £99 fare for two people travelling together, a £49 day return from Ashford International station, and a daily direct service to Disneyland Paris, costing £198.50 for a

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Brussels	Paris	Marseille	
£79	£79	£161	Eurostar & SNCF
(train fares from next Monday)			
£49	£49.50	£109	Eurostar & SNCF
(fare per person minimum of two)			
£60	£59	£119	Air
(plus airport)			
£70	£80	£250	Car
*Includes ferry and petrol cost **plus hotel costs (estimated costs per person, four people)			

family of four. The fares compare with a current lowest price of £79 to Paris and Brussels, although, on some special promotions, tickets are as cheap as £59 for Brussels and £69 for Paris.

There will also be cheap tickets to destinations in Germany and the South of France, involving changes at Brussels or Lille. These range from £79 return for the seven-hour journey to Cologne, £99 return for Lyon and Bordeaux, and £109 return to Marseille, which will take ten hours from Waterloo International. The new fares represent savings of between £30 and £60 on

existing tickets. In December, Eurostar will be starting direct overnight trains to the French Alps.

Ian Brooks, the new commercial director of EPS, brought in from Virgin Atlantic, said there would also be new trains to attract business customers away from the airlines. These will include one arriving in Paris in time for 10am meetings and later departures from Paris and Brussels.

Eurostar also announced that it was linking with British Midland Airways to allow business travellers to go to the Continent by train and fly

back with British Midland, or vice-versa.

Future plans include better catering, video screens on seat backs and faster checking-in. Passengers at Waterloo are currently asked to check in at least 20 minutes before departure, but Mr Branson said he wanted passengers to be able to "run and catch a Eurostar just as they can any other train". Check-in time at Paris has already been cut to eight minutes.

The marketing overhaul follows Eurostar's slow first 18 months, when passenger numbers fell far below initial projections. Many of the trains run more than half empty, particularly on the Brussels route.

EPS has been heavily criticised for the marketing of the service. The company is being sold by the Government as part of the £3 billion deal with London & Continental to build the Channel Tunnel rail link. The link is expected to cut journey times to Paris by 40 minutes to two hours 20 minutes when it opens in about 2003.

City Diary, page 29



Bishop Kelly outside Liverpool's Catholic Cathedral yesterday: appeals to both traditionalists and progressives

Liverpool greets his smiling grace Kelly

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE bishop selected by the Pope to succeed the late Derek Worlock as Archbishop of Liverpool prayed for unity yesterday but admitted there was "no magic wand" to reverse the decline in church attendance.

The Right Rev Patrick Kelly, Bishop of Salford, said his first Mass as Archbishop-elect in the city cathedral where he

will be installed in July. The Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament was crowded.

Described as a liberal conservative, he is the most likely of the contenders for the post to appeal to traditionalists, progressives and the majority at the centre of the Church.

The Lancashire-born cleric displayed the sense of humour he will need to sustain him in Liverpool. He referred to his former co-operation

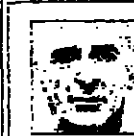
with the city's Anglican bishop, the Right Rev David Sheppard, on television's Central Religious Advisory Council. "We were once together on Crac," he said. "I assure you that it is spelt without a final k." Although he made no reference to the nickname already given him by some in the diocese — "His Grace Kelly" — he is said to be privately amused.

When asked about falling

national Mass attendance, he said: "Nobody has found the magic wand to wave over this." There were many related questions. "One is the pressure on people at weekends, especially on young people, who have to find employment at weekends."

In Salford, he has made a name for himself as a loving and pastoral bishop and is widely respected by clergy and laity.

Hoarse voices of wintry hangover



MEDICAL BRIEFING

ASSERTIONS that this is the latest and coldest spring since the 17th century are hard either to prove or refute. Gardens that are a month behind schedule and the length of the surgery queue seem to support the claim.

Princess Margaret is reported to be among the victims of the present wave of coughs and colds and as a result to be suffering from laryngitis. It is a common complication of winter infections but one that always causes some anxiety in a partygoing smoker.

Rules governing the correct treatment of patients complaining of hoarseness are well defined and were recently quoted in the medical journal *Update* by George Minty, a surgeon in Leicester, and Michael Mead, one of his GP colleagues.

Patients with a hoarse voice need careful questioning: how long have they had the symptom, how much do they use their voice, do they smoke and drink, and is there any suggestion of thyroid problems? A poorly acting thyroid changes the quality of the voice, or an enlarged thyroid may cause symptoms by exerting pres-

sure on adjacent tissue. Loss of weight, a persistent cough and difficulty in swallowing all suggest a possibly more sinister cause of the problem.

Nodules and polyps commonly cause hoarseness and develop as a result of misuse, or overuse of the voice. Thus they are common in singers and sergeant-majors. Laryngitis may be viral, bacterial or fungal. Fungi are particularly likely to grow in patients using inhaled steroids for asthma.

Laryngitis is the most frequent cause of a persistently hoarse voice. The chords can even become swollen and bleed from overuse, particularly if they are also immersed in alcoholic fumes rising from the stomach after a heavy evening's drinking.

Benign nodules and polyps are relatively easily treated. Smaller ones disappear if the voice is rested, larger ones may have to be removed surgically. Early cancer of the larynx responds well to radiotherapy but in more advanced cases surgery is also needed.

DR THOMAS
STUTTAFFORD

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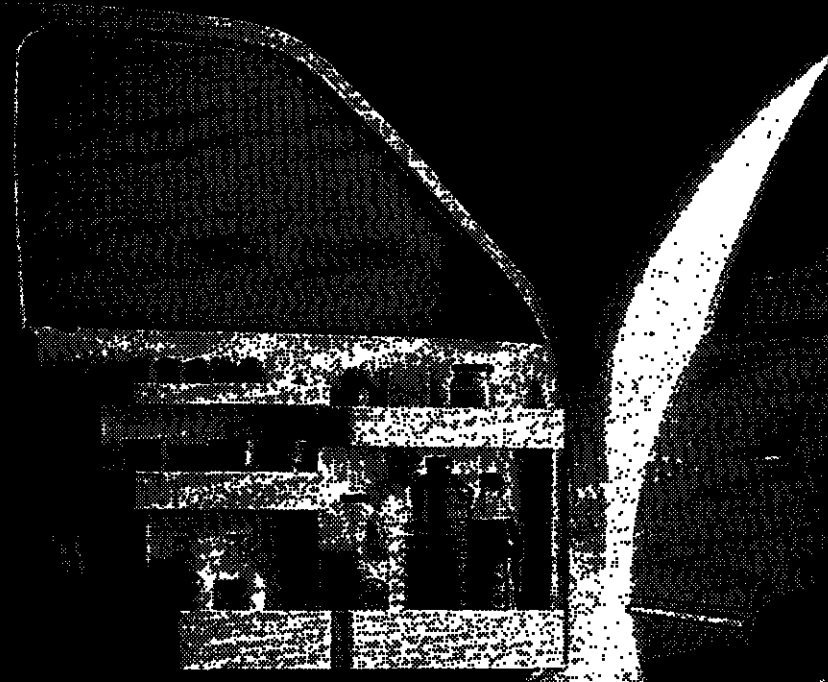
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AIR CONDITIONING AS STANDARD? THAT'LL BE THE  DAEWOO

هذا من الامم

Mother out for walk is raped in front of her two children

By RICHARD DUCE

A TWO-year-old boy was in shock last night after he watched his mother being raped in a secluded lane by a knife-wielding attacker.

The attack on the 28-year-old woman in the village of Buckton Vale, Greater Manchester also happened in front of her six-month-old daughter but the child is too young to realise what was happening. The rapist struck in broad daylight as the woman pushed a pram along the gravelled lane on Monday afternoon.

Police have warned women living near the scene of the attack, often used by people out walking their dogs, that the man could strike again. It is believed the woman was followed into the lane by her attacker who held a knife to her throat. She gave in to his demands fearing that he could attack the children.

Detective Chief Inspector Tony Porter, of Greater Manchester police, said: "The assault lasted about five min-

utes but the victim is very traumatised. Any rape is terrible but particularly more so when carried out in front of two young children. The eldest child was upset immediately but only time will tell how deeply affected he is. The baby is so young she does not realise what has happened.

There is a great danger until this man is caught. It is imperative that local women in particular are vigilant and take care. It was remarkable that this assault should take place at a spot popular with walkers but this man was very cool during the assault.

The fact that this man could have been happened upon by others who were out walking did not seem to bother him. We believe he followed his victim until she became isolated and then attacked her from behind."

Mr Porter said the woman went to a nearby school to raise the alarm and has since had counselling. "Shortly after the attack she was calm and composed but the impact of

the trauma has had time to affect her. She is in shock but has been very supportive to the police." People living locally said yesterday they would stay away from the lane, known as The Cuttings until the man has been caught.

Alan Bishop, 49, said: "I have been here seven years and never known anything like it. You just do not think something like this will happen around here."

"My mother-in-law is 84 and she often goes there and people walk their dogs all day in that area. I doubt where she will dare venture up there now."

Police have described the rapist as white, between 20 and 25, 5ft 6in tall, slim with short dark hair and bushy eyebrows that meet in the middle.

He spoke with a local accent and is thought to have a squint and yellow teeth. He was wearing a camel-coloured fleecy zippered jacket, jeans, and dirty tanned walking boots with yellow top trim.



Georgi Sviridov, Russia's best-loved composer, above right, at the Russian Embassy in London yesterday with his countryman, baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky, who will perform Sviridov's new song cycle on Thursday

Russian composer back in London

By ROBIN YOUNG

RUSSIA'S best-loved living composer arrived in London yesterday for the world premiere of his new song cycle. Georgi Sviridov, 80, was the favourite pupil of Dmitri Shostakovich, and his music is so well-loved in Russia that one theme was adopted, without permission, to introduce the equivalent of *The Nine O'Clock News*.

He was last in London in the early 1970s when his *Pathetic Oratorio* was unjustly dismissed as Communist propaganda. In fact half his music was written under cover and not performed in his homeland.

His new song cycle, dedicated to St Petersburg, has been written for Dmitri Hvorostovsky, the Russian baritone who won the Cardiff Singer of the World award in 1989. The premiere will be at the Wigmore Hall in London on Thursday, with a second performance on Sunday.

Arts, pages 33-35

MPs urge curbs on Camelot cash and privileges

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WIDE-RANGING changes to the way the National Lottery is handled were demanded by MPs yesterday as they pressed for curbs on Camelot's profits and privileges. The Commons report into the lottery listed a string of recommendations to ensure more money goes to good causes and allow other organisations to compete more equally.

While the third Commons report into the lottery praised the "remarkable" transformation brought about by the lottery, MPs complained that Camelot had been allowed privileges denied to competitors in the gaming and gambling industries.

The cross-party National Heritage Select Committee drew attention to larger-than-expected profits made by Camelot — £23.6 million in the first five months — and called on the consortium to consider

giving a proportion of their "additional, unanticipated, profits to charity".

Under lottery rules, if the payouts in prize money do not reach an agreed percentage of the total takings, the surplus must be paid into the distribution fund for good causes, but Camelot keeps the interest. With the surplus for the current year estimated to be £125 million, the committee said the arrangement was "not satisfactory" and that the interest — estimated to be more than £10 million — should also go to the distribution fund.

Gerald Kaufman, the committee chairman, said that MPs had deliberately not made a recommendation as to how much extra money should be given to donate to charity. "We left it imprecise, hoping that Camelot's good nature will make it as much as possible. We are looking for a substantial sum of money." A spokeswoman for Camelot said it had already donated £500,000 from profits to charities and other good causes.

The MPs also criticised the Government's refusal to allow bookmakers to run bets on the outcome of the lottery. They called for changes to the gaming and betting industries to correct the "imbalance" that had allowed the National Lottery privileges over gambling outlets. Ministers should lift curbs on betting shops and bingo hall advertising.

The committee's report said it was unacceptable that Camelot should be able to charge for the exclusive live television rights to broadcast the results of the weekly lottery draw.

MPs said that in the first 13 months of operation, lottery sales had reached £5 billion, which was far higher than originally expected. The report found the betting industry had been hit by the success of the lottery, with 2,400 of the country's 9,300 betting shops facing closure, while bingo halls were seeing a 35 per cent fall in profitability.

Chelsea rivals green with envy on award

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Chelsea Flower Show reintroduced a hardy perennial yesterday: disagreement and professional jealousy over the top prize for best garden in the show.

The award, revived this year at the Royal Horticultural Society's expense after an absence due to lack of sponsorship, has caused so much upset that the public may be called upon to judge the judges next year.

The winner was Mark Anthony Walker, of Clifton Landscape and Design, for a garden sponsored by Cartier and *Harpers & Queen* magazine. It was called "Views of an English Garden in the Spirit of Vita Sackville-West".

Two rival exhibitors said they had tipped it as the likely winner, but others were disparaging. "Very interesting, but I have seen it all before," said Stephen Woodhams, whose kitchen garden received a silver medal. "It

seems only the big names with top sponsors get the top prizes," said Chris Laws, of L.W.L. Landscaping, who won the Tudor Rose for best garden at the Hampton Court show last year. "We were very disappointed."

Graham Clarke, Editor of *Amateur Garden*, whose garden received a silver medal, said: "Every year the public reaction is entirely different from that of the judges."

"Next year we're going to invite a panel of readers to come into the show and follow the judges' route, telling us what they think the award should have been."

Sir Simon Hornby, president of the Royal Horticultural Society, said: "We take more trouble over judging the gardens than over anything else. Every year there are disgruntled people who have not received top awards and who complain."

Show report, page 20

ALL MR. KENWOOD WANTED AFTER HIS LONG FLIGHT WAS A TRANQUIL DINNER IN OUR GARDEN BRASSERIE. (IT WAS 6.03 AM.)

He'd just spent 16 hours being jolted and squeezed through overflowing airports and overbooked flights; he was fed up with fitting into tight spaces and fitting in with other people's regulations. He was also hungry.

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Mass slaughter and £1bn of government aid make little impact on beleaguered cattle trade

Industry in limbo adds up cost of global export ban

REPORTS BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

WITH the beef crisis entering its third month, the travail of Britain's cattle industry shows no sign of easing. Jobs are being destroyed and companies are going bankrupt.

In addition to the financial disaster many farmers face, up to 10,000 ancillary workers are estimated to have been laid off, put on short-time working or made redundant since the global export ban was imposed on March 27. Despite earmarking nearly £1 billion to support the industry, introducing new safeguards to protect the public and embarking on the destruction of about one million older cattle, the Government is no nearer persuading the European Union to lift its ban.

Even if Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, had succeeded this week in persuading other EU ministers to end the ban on beef by-products such as tallow, gelatine and semen, exporters would have gained little financial relief. At a generous estimate, these items earned no more than £34 million last year.

That compares with the beef



Hogg failed to convince European partners

exports worth £520 million annually that remain blocked, and the £70 million earned by the export of 450,000 calves to the Continent last year for the veal trade. Sheep exports, worth £40 million, are also at a standstill because the trade is not viable without cattle to ship with them.

As well as failing to persuade the EU that British beef can safely be imported and

eaten, the Government has had little support at home for the rescue strategy it is struggling to put in place.

Even before other EU ministers had rejected as inadequate Mr Hogg's plan to cull up to 80,000 cattle, mainly dairy, considered to be at high risk of developing BSE, British farmers and vets had denounced the scheme as irrelevant and unjustified. The cull would have been in addition to the slaughter and incineration of cattle over 30 months old, which is already under way, and is designed to ensure that only those animals least likely to be incubating BSE enter the food chain.

Meanwhile, exporters who were left with unsold beef stocks worth £18 million when the ban began are aggrieved that they have had no help from the Government. The International Meat Trade Association is taking the Ministry of Agriculture to court for alleged unlawful discrimination between suppliers.

Nicholas Budgen, page 18
Leading article, page 19



John Cattermole laid off 22 people when the ban on head meat was imposed

Whitehall edict wrecks thriving family business

COW HEAD DE-BONERS

JOHN CATERMOLE is one of the lesser-known victims of the crisis in the beef industry. Two months ago he had a thriving business near Coventry specialising in the removal of cheek meat from the heads of slaughtered cattle, an ingredient in a variety of meat products from pies to pâtés.

On March 28 the Government announced that cattle head meat was to be added to the list of bovine carcass parts no longer deemed safe for human consumption. Scientists had advised that brain tissue, known to be an area of BSE infection, might contaminate the rest of the head.

"Overnight a factory in which I had invested £300,000 only two years ago, taking out bank loans and a mortgage on my house, was forced out of business," he said. "I have had to set rid of the 22 people who worked there and am facing redundancy claims of up to £60,000. I owe abattoirs who supplied me with cattle heads a further £50,000 and have been left with £20,000 of unsold stock. I have put my house up for sale to try and pay off my debts." Mr Cattermole's factory processed

300,000 cattle heads a year and was one of the biggest members of the Association of Cattle Head De-Boners, representing an industry which until eight weeks ago had a turnover of £20 million a year and a workforce of 300.

Mr Cattermole, 32, has two daughters, Danielle, 10, and Lucy, 12. His wife, Joanne-Marie, does not work so the factory was the family's only source of income.

Before the ban on head meat, the Cattermole meat curing plant on an industrial estate had an annual turnover of £1.7 million and made a net profit of £200,000. "Trying to find other work for the plant will be difficult. Operating costs are £4,000 a week so we would have to be very confident of any new business we started."

Graham Reed, the association's chairman, said: "An entire specialist industry has been shut down without warning. It is blatantly unfair that the Government has offered no compensation. It is near impossible to find other work for our plants because of overcapacity in the abattoir and meat curing industry."

THE FARMERS

There are 40,000 dairy farmers and 70,000 beef farmers in Britain. Beef farmers with prime animals under 30 months old are suffering most. If they sell now they stand to lose up to £150 an animal, compared with what they would have been paid before the announcement on March 20 of the possible link between BSE and CJD in humans. If they hold back, there is no certainty that prices will improve. Farmers with cattle over 30 months old will at least be reasonably compensated when these animals are taken off their hands and destroyed. Payments

average between £480 and £800 per animal, depending on weight and type. The cost will run to about £630 million in the first year, funded partly by the European Union. Farmers are frustrated by the slow pace at which the slaughter is proceeding. This is mainly because of the limited number of incinerators and rendering plants in which to dispose of the carcasses. No one knows how many animals over 30 months old are on farms awaiting slaughter. Estimates range from 150,000 to more than 500,000.

ABATTOIRS

Many of the initial lay-offs of staff were in abattoirs as cattle sales slumped. But abattoirs and renderers have now been given the work of culling and destroying older animals and have received a total of £228 million in government aid. Some abattoirs are still in financial trouble, however, because supermarkets will not accept beef from plants that are also involved in culling older cattle. Several of the biggest and most efficient plants have lost their export trade and need to be able to increase supermarket business and culling to be viable.

MARKETS

There are about 200 livestock markets in Britain. Auctioneers earn a commission that is fixed as a percentage of the price of every head of cattle sold. In the second week of May, the number of prime steers and heifers traded at markets was 13,497, compared with 22,247 at the same time last year. The average price was £555, against £665 a year ago. Auctioneers fear that they will lose under the scheme for culling cattle aged more than 30 months because farmers are compensated at a better rate if they send those animals direct to an abattoir.

HAULIERS

The Road Haulage Association says 5,000 lorries and 8,000 people are normally involved in transporting cattle and beef. Graham Houghton, its livestock controller, said: "The export trade has completely gone and the transport of cattle from farms to markets is 40 per cent down. Up to 70 firms have gone out of business or stopped trading." Firms are estimated to have lost £90 million of turnover. The glut of empty livestock lorries and refrigerated beef vans looking for other cargoes has forced down the rates for all haulage work by as much as 25 per cent.

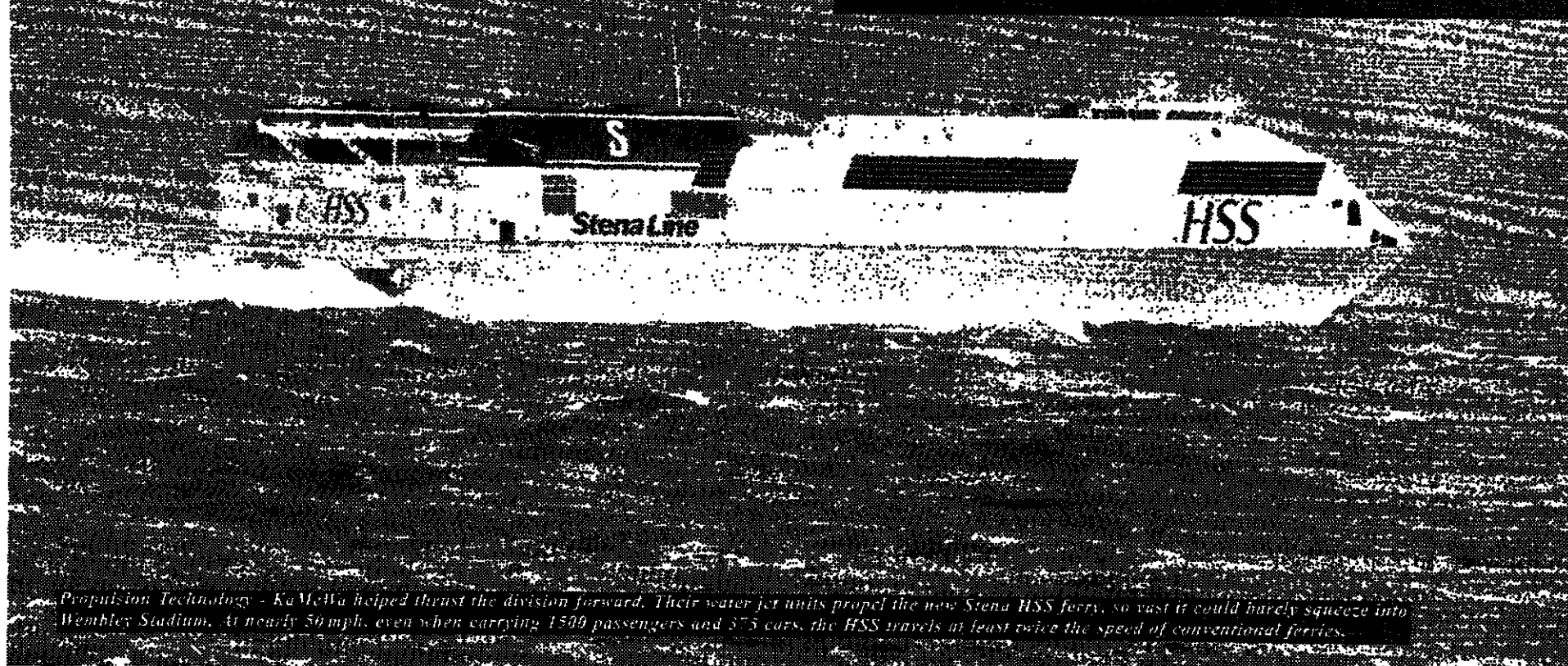
EXPORTERS

Beck Foods, of Boston, Lincolnshire, is typical of the many meat processing and packing firms affected by the BSE crisis. It did 30 per cent of its business abroad. Turnover is now down from £110 million to £75 million and it has had to lay off 200 of its 600 staff. Morris Bond, chairman and managing director, runs his own abattoir and will qualify for a share of the £110 million aid for slaughterhouses. First City Trading, in London, whose sole business is exporting beef, is not eligible for any aid. It is left with £2.75 million of unsold stocks.

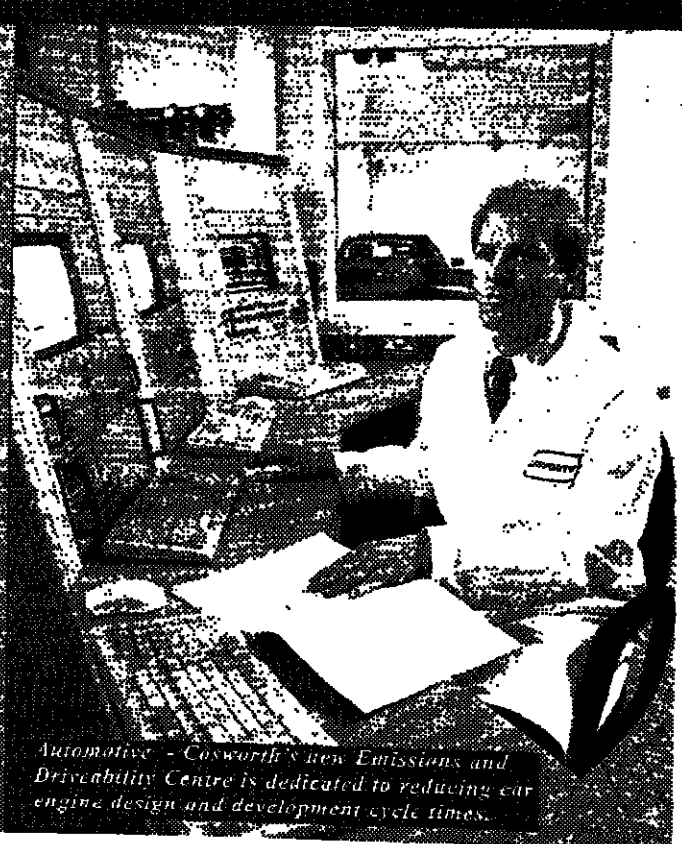
RETAILERS

Beef sales fell by more than 50 per cent after March 20. The Meat and Livestock Commission says sales are now back to 94 per cent of the pre-March level. Asda puts its sales at 90 per cent of normal and last week announced it was banishing foreign beef from its shelves. But other supermarket chains, as well as the National Federation of Meat and Food Traders, representing butchers, says sales are still 20 per cent down. Demand for other meats has risen, pushing up prices by 17 per cent for lamb, 10 per cent for pork and 8 per cent for poultry.

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GP fundholders 'failing to give value for money'

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

FEWER than one in ten GP fundholders is achieving significant benefits for patients despite the spending of more than £230 million on running the scheme, a report says today.

In the first objective evaluation of fundholding, a linchpin of the NHS reforms, the Audit Commission says that most fundholders have made few changes and are not giving value for money.

The finding is a severe blow to the Government. Ministers have pinned their faith on fundholding as the lever that would transform the NHS from a hospital-led to a GP-led service. Under the scheme family doctors have a budget from which to buy hospital care for their patients, allowing them more control over what is provided.

Labour seized on the report, describing it as a "devastating critique" of the fundholding scheme. Harriet Harman, Shadow Health Secretary, said: "The flaws that have been highlighted could not be addressed without yet more administrative expense."

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, rejected the criticism and promised more support for fundholders. "What the Audit Commission makes clear is that the best fundholders are having a significant impact on patient care. The implication is that if the rest were as good as the best there would be huge benefits for patients."

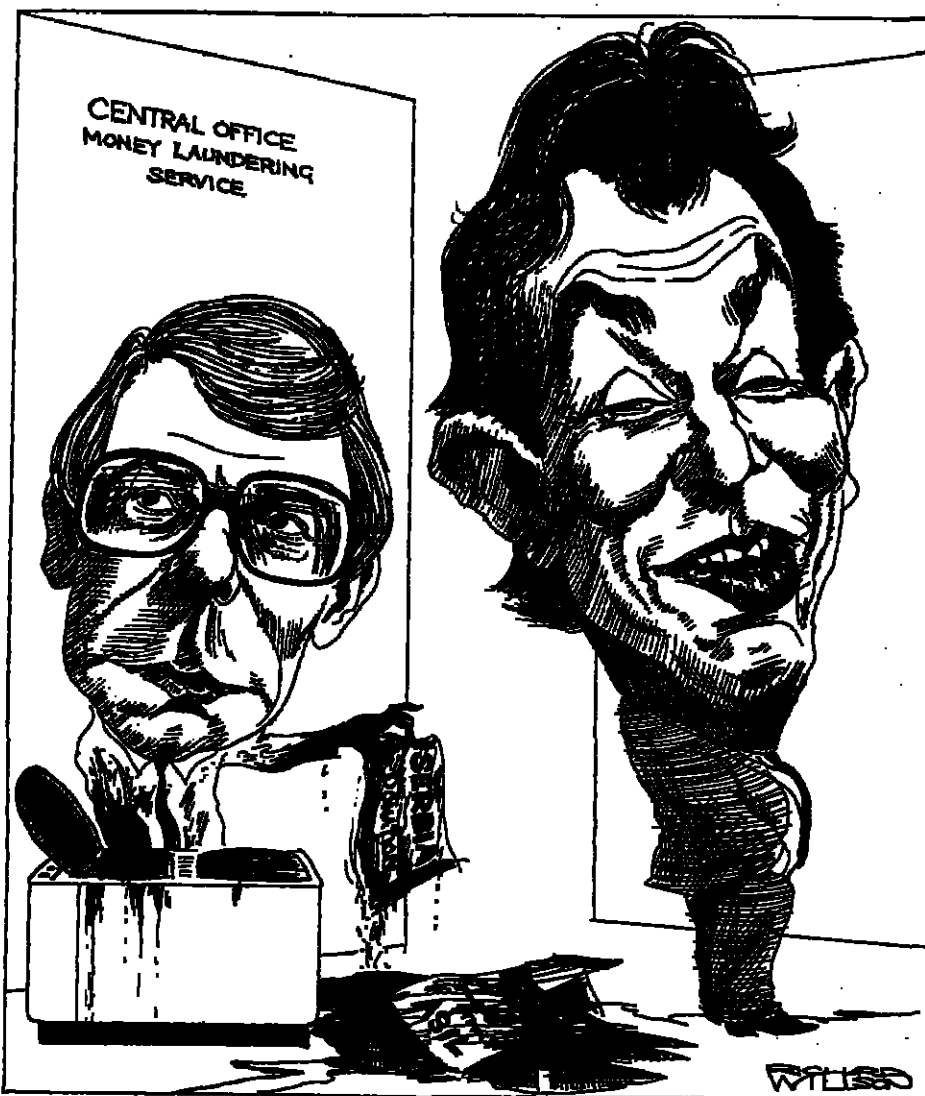
Fundholding practices cover more than half the population and control £5.5 billion of hospital spending. Up to the end of 1994/95 they received £232 million to cover costs in staff, equipment and computers to manage their budgets. An additional £13 million was spent by health authorities and further costs, not assessed for the report, were incurred by NHS trusts.

The commission found that the best-managed practices had had a big impact on services, controlling waiting lists for non-urgent operations and increasing the level of day surgery. But most had "modest ambitions" and had changed little. "It is relatively easy to recognise the best practices... but such practices are rare... The majority do not appear to be especially good at management and networking or achieving a large number of benefits for patients. The question that must be asked of these fundholders is whether they are providing sufficient improvements to justify their costs."

The commission's findings are based on a questionnaire survey of 1,300 fundholding

practices and visits to 56. It found that control of budgets was patchy and did not improve with experience. An unexpected finding was that practices which joined the scheme in year one, which were thought to be the most enterprising and innovative, were no more likely to have achieved changes than those that joined in later years.

The commission raises serious doubts about whether there are enough GPs of sufficient calibre to continue extending the scheme. A further 800 practices became fundholders in April taking the total to 3,000, almost half the practices in England and Wales. A cut in NHS red tape expected to save £40 million was announced yesterday. More than 175,000 forms sent between health authorities and trusts are to be scrapped and the health department will send out one million fewer pieces of paper a year.



Tories dropped gift row candidate

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN KENNEDY, the parliamentary candidate at the centre of the Tory funding controversy, was removed from the party's list three years ago.

Yesterday Conservative Central Office declined to discuss the removal of Mr Kennedy, who is said to have acted as go-between in the alleged donation of £100,000 from a businessman linked to Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader.

Mr Kennedy was dropped from the list of approved potential candidates at the beginning of 1993. He was readmitted last year and selected for Malesowen and Rowley Regis, one of the marginal seats the Tories must win to stay in power.

John Major was forced on the defensive in the Commons yesterday about the alleged donation and rejected Labour demands for an investigation into party political funding. The party's treasurers have so far failed to establish whether the gift was ever received.

The money is alleged to have been paid in 1992 and 1994, when British troops were involved in peacekeeping

operations in Bosnia. The businessman, speaking through his lawyer, has denied any link with Dr Karadzic, who is wanted for war crimes.

Mr Kennedy, whose constituency association is standing by him, has dismissed the donation allegation as "fantastic nonsense".

Last night he said that he had "suspended himself" from the candidate list on becoming private secretary to Prince Michael of Kent. He took up this post, however, in January 1994, long after being removed from the list.

At Question Time yesterday, Tony Blair, the Labour leader, said: "When gifts are disguised as loans and money is accepted from foreigners most people in this country would think - would they not? - that the best thing was to have the Nolan committee look at it so that justice could be done and seen to be done, not covered up and hidden by the Conservative Party."

Mr Major accused him of flying into a tantrum and said: "It is only in the Labour Party that donations and money buy influence."

Tory MPs support change to libel Bill

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

TORY MPs made it clear yesterday that they want to alter their 300-year-old laws of privilege to help them to sue newspapers for libel.

The Government said that it would give MPs a free vote on an amendment to the Defamation Bill that would change the 17th century Bill of Rights, which prevents statements made in the Commons being questioned in court. The amendment would allow MPs to waive their parliamentary privilege.

At the second reading of the Bill yesterday, Tory backbenchers said they want more ammunition to fight newspaper allegations of sleaze. Tory MPs who have been involved in libel cases pleaded for urgent new measures.

David Ashby, the Tory MP, who lost a libel action last year against *The Sunday Times* newspaper over claims he was a homosexual and a hypocrite said the sooner the amendment came the better.

But Paul Boateng, Labour's legal affairs spokesman, said that his party would not support the amendment. "We have great privileges in this House and there is a price to be paid for them," he said.

Ministers' aides quit over TV dispute

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO Tory MPs resigned as ministerial aides last night after voting against government plans to restrict cross-media ownership.

Peter Atkinson and John Whittingdale opposed a move to prevent newspaper groups with more than 20 per cent of national newspaper circulation from bidding for independent television stations. The MPs urged ministers to remove the limit and allow bids to be considered on the basis of public interest.

Mr Atkinson is Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Foreign Office. Ministers Jeremy Hanley and Sir Nicholas Bonsor. He said: "I enjoyed my time as a PPS. I believe in liberalisation of free trade. I don't believe in opposing success and this is what the Government is proposing."

Mr Whittingdale, PPS to Eric Forth and Lord Henley, Education and Employment Ministers, said: "I regret that I have to resign but I will support the Government on the many issues with which I agree."

The Government defeated the amendment proposed by the two MPs in a Commons committee on the Broadcasting Bill by 14 votes to 13. The 20 per cent rule would bar Mirror Group Newspapers and News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, from bidding for franchises in the new Channel 3 and Channel 5 national television franchises.

Media, pages 22 and 23

Students welcome Labour loan plan

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

STUDENTS' leaders yesterday accepted Labour proposals to scrap their grants and create a loans scheme giving them 20 years to repay debts of £12,000 or more.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, outlined plans for financial institutions to help to raise £2.4 billion for an expanded loans system. The proposals formed part of an initiative to promote "life-long learning", encouraging adults to return to education periodically.

The policy, Labour's submission to Sir Ron Dearing's review of higher education, underlines the party's opposition to vice-chancellors' plans for tuition fees to plug the gaps in university funding. But it holds out the promise of a £1 billion cash injection from savings on student grants.

Students would borrow the full cost of their maintenance, repaying through National

Insurance when they reached an agreed salary level. The present five-year repayment period would be extended.

Mr Blunkett said the proposals had involved tough choices ducked by the Government. But Eric Forth, the Higher Education Minister, described Labour's proposals as "flawed" and said the Government would not preempt the Dearing inquiry.

Jim Murphy, president of the National Union of Students, said: "Student hardship is now at crisis point... This is the only way to ensure decent funding for increased student numbers."

Mr Forth, however, said: "There is little substantive evidence of student hardship. Hardship is often claimed when students have to borrow to cover their maintenance costs - whether through a loan from the Student Loans Company or from relatives."

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US warns Russia against missile sales to Chinese

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration is demanding that Russia and Ukraine should rebuff covert Chinese attempts to buy advanced intercontinental missile technology that would give China the capacity to threaten American cities.

"There have been communications at high levels to both the Russian and the Ukrainian governments of our very specific concern on this," William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, said yesterday. The Administration was "being very direct... the demarche to the Russians and Ukraine was very specific."

The US had also protested to China, Mr Perry added. A Pentagon intelligence report leaked to *The Washington Times* earlier this week said that China was trying to buy technology and parts from the Russian SS-18 missile under the guise of improving its space-launch programme.

The report said that such sales "would greatly improve Peking's ability to threaten targets in the US."

The SS-18 can carry at least ten nuclear warheads and has a range of almost 7,000 miles. Ukraine, which built the missile until 1991, was also discussing "an SS-18 deal with China," the report added.

Mr Perry said the Administration "vigorously opposed" the sales, not only because it enhanced China's ability to threaten America, but because it would violate both the US-

Russian Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty and the 31-nation Missile Technology Control Regime.

America's increasing concerns come as China prepares for a new underground nuclear test at its Lop Nur test site, even though it is being urged by other nations to join a planned comprehensive test

Peking: China welcomed President Clinton's decision to renew America's most favoured nation status for Peking. However, it urged Washington to halt the annual review process which it said was outdated and erroneous, and could create "psychological instability". (Reuters)

Leading article, page 19

ban treaty. Walter Slocombe, the American Under Secretary of Defence, said yesterday:

"What we see them preparing to do is to conduct a nuclear test." But he added that Peking had also "shown some flexibility" on the question of ending such tests, along with other nuclear powers.

The United States, Russia, Britain and France, have declared self-imposed moratoriums on testing and Mr Slocombe said a planned comprehensive test ban treaty could be ready for signing in a month or so. China has declared no such moratorium.

"The Chinese have made clear that they have a programme of tests to finish; that they intend to finish them regardless," Mr Slocombe said. "How many they will do is uncertain. Some progress has been made."

China said last week in Geneva it was willing to show "flexibility" on its demand that any nuclear test ban treaty should allow "peaceful" nuclear explosions.

On a separate issue yesterday, Mr Perry said Admiral Mike Boorda, the Navy chief who committed suicide last week, had been guilty of a "technical violation" of military regulations by wearing decorations he was not entitled to. However, the Defence Secretary insisted it was an inadvertent error and said he could not understand why the press had pursued the issue.

Admiral Boorda had attached to his Vietnam ribbons two "V" for "valour" pins earned by those who engaged in actual combat. Mr Perry said the admiral's citation referred to his being in combat, but the citation's "V" box was not ticked. This meant he "probably should not have been wearing" the pins but it was a "relatively unimportant technical error."

Admiral Boorda had removed the pins a year ago when the matter was first raised. "In my judgment that should have been the end of it right there," Mr Perry said.



President Fujimori of Peru opening the exhibition featuring the Inca Ice Maiden in Washington yesterday

Inca Ice Maiden makes her debut

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

SOME 500 years after she was sacrificed as a gift to the gods and left in a frozen tomb on a volcanic peak in the Andes, the mummy of an Inca girl made its public debut yesterday.

The rare Ice Maiden went on display at the National Geographic Society in Washington and will remain for a month before being returned, still frozen in a special refrigeration unit, to her native Peru. The mummy is probably the best-preserved from pre-Columbian times yet found in the Americas.

It was discovered last September by a team led by Johan Reinhard, an anthropologist at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. He said the girl, probably aged about 13 when she died, showed no signs of a violent death, either by strangulation or a blow to the head, as

was often the case with Inca human sacrifices. He believes she may already have died from exposure and exhaustion from the long trek when she was wrapped tightly in a cocoon of richly patterned textiles and laid to rest at 20,700ft on the summit of Nevado Ampato. To the Incas, Ampato was the mountain god who brought life-giving water and good harvests in return for human sacrifices.

Mr Reinhard said the Ice Maiden's death would have been presided over by a small group of Inca priests in a ritual ceremony. She may have died peacefully, convinced that she would be rewarded by the gods. She was found surrounded by offerings that included coca, from which cocaine is extracted, shards of pottery, and figurines of gold, silver and shell

with feather head-dresses and garments that looked as good as new.

The Ice Maiden came to light after a nearby volcano erupted, covering Ampato with warm ash and causing her grave to melt and spill its contents down the ridge. Mr Reinhard found two more, less well-preserved human sacrifices at the site, one of a girl, the other of a boy.

Carrying the Ice Maiden down the mountain was hazardous and a race to keep her largely frozen until they reached a university freezer 100 miles away. The trip, on foot and by bus, took 64 hours.

Exposure has turned the mummy's face to leather, but other skin remains preserved under her wrappings and studies of the tissue, as well as her organs and DNA, will show how she lived and, perhaps, how she died.

Marines ordered to Bangui

Washington: The Pentagon ordered US Marines into the Central African Republic yesterday to protect the US Embassy and help evacuate American citizens after an army mutiny sparked fighting in Bangui, the capital (Martin Fletcher writes).

A French military plane took off from Bangui airport for Paris last night with a first load of 138 foreigners fleeing the unrest.

Council rescue

An emergency £5 million will be made available next year for the British Council, saving offices in up to 20 countries from closure (Michael Binyon writes). It will get £9 million more in 1998-99.

Patten attacked

Hong Kong: Governor Chris Patten should accept China's plans for Hong Kong and start co-operating, businessmen here said in a letter. He replied that he saw no need for a provisional legislature. (AFP)

Ankara warned

Damascus: Syria accused Turkey of adopting hostile policies, saying its boosting of military ties with Israel would provoke Turkish Muslims and drag Ankara into conflicts. (Reuters)

Separatist clash

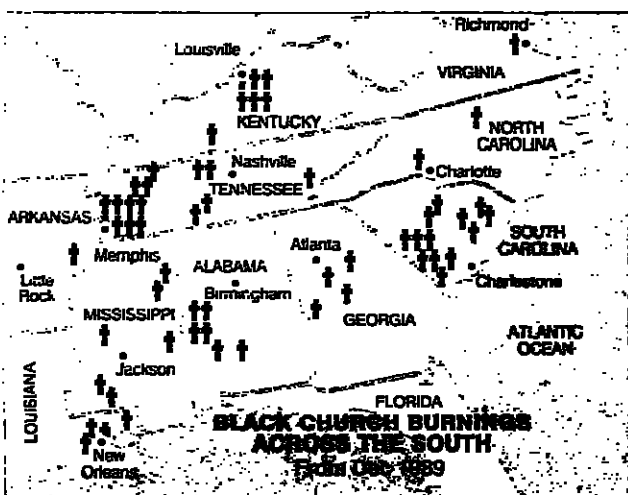
Peking: Nine armed Muslim separatists died in a gunbattle with police in China's north-western Xinjiang region, bordering three Muslim Central Asian states as well as Afghanistan and Pakistan. (Reuters)

Albania attack

Tirana: At least three leading members of Albania's opposition Socialist Party campaigning for a general election on Sunday were reportedly beaten severely by police in the capital. (Reuters)

Show of force

Tehran: Iran is to stage the largest manoeuvres ever held in the Middle East, aimed at showing off its military capability to the enemies of the Islamic republic, the Iran news agency reported. (AFP)



Arsonists hit black churches

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

CONGRESS yesterday launched an inquiry into the latest chilling manifestation of America's racial strife — the burning of black churches across the south.

Over the past 16 months 27 such churches have been burnt or firebombed — a rate not matched since the great civil rights struggles of the early 1960s, when white "night riders" destroyed 100 churches in Mississippi alone. Since

1990 an estimated 57 black churches have been burnt or seriously vandalised.

The fires have been started in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Virginia and the Carolinas. The Justice Department has found no evidence of a conspiracy, but no one disputes that the attacks are racially motivated.

"The church is the centre of black life and culture in Amer-

ica," says Joel Williamson, a race relations expert at the University of North Carolina. "If people are targeting the black world for a hit, the place to hit is the church."

In the few cases where the arsonists have been caught, they have all been white males, some linked to white supremacist groups like the Ku Klux Klan, the Aryan Nation, or Skinheads for White Justice.

'Secret' reform set to cut Exxon damages

EXXON oil company, yet to pay any of the \$5 billion (£3.3 billion) damages awarded to victims of the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, is alleged to be behind a secretive legal reform that could cut its liability by up to 95 per cent (Giles Whittell writes).

There is uproar in Alaska over a rider to a larger state Bill that limits any such damages and is designed to be retroactive. It was added be-

hind closed doors, without debate at a recent legislative session.

When the tanker broke up in Prince William Sound it spilled 11 million gallons of crude oil, killing birds and devastating fish stocks. Compensation, awarded two years ago, has been delayed by Exxon appeals. The company has denied any link with the legislation, which awaits only the Governor's signature.

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Sharansky heralds wind of change in Israel

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

NATAN SHARANSKY, ten years after his release from a Soviet prison, is likely to become a Cabinet minister in the next Israeli Government, whichever party wins.

The former Soviet Jewish refusenik, leader of the Israel Bealiya party for Russian migrants, will join the next coalition government whether it is led by Shimon Peres of Labour, or Binyamin Netanyahu of the right-wing Likud party.

"It was the change which led to the Prime Minister being elected directly for the first time that enabled me, both morally and practically, to set up my party," Mr Sharansky, 48, said a week before 3.9 million Israelis are due to vote. "Without that change, it would not have been possible."

With Israel Bealiya set to become a power in the tightly-contested 120-seat parliament, which will also be elected a week today in a separate ballot, most commentators expect Mr Sharansky to be offered the post of Minister of Immigrant Absorption to secure the loyalty of the four to six deputies he is expected to manage to get elected.

"We will not join a new government at any price, but we are ready to start negotia-

tions with whoever wins the race for the Prime Minister's job," Mr Sharansky told journalists crammed into his new headquarters opposite a Jerusalem bakery. The exercise, carried out without the malevolent presence of the KGB, was strangely reminiscent of the days in the 1970s when he was responsible for liaison between the refusenik community and foreign reporters in Moscow.

Mr Sharansky, whose weight dropped to just over six stone during a 110-day hunger strike in protest against



Sharansky, during his years in a Soviet gulag

the Soviet ban on family visits, laid down two conditions for joining the new Israeli government: "One, that the new administration does not cross our security red lines (including a bar on any move towards a Palestinian state) and also that immigrant absorption and the potential arrival of a million more Soviet Jews is considered as important as security."

Short in stature, balding, bursting with ideas and exuding a charisma lacking in many of his political rivals, Mr Sharansky spoke passionately of his desire to "change the shape" of Israeli society by successfully harnessing for the first time in Israel's history the political clout of the almost 700,000 new immigrants who have arrived from the former Soviet Union since 1989 and the 200,000 others who came before them.

"We have formed our party, which many of the existing parties said would be impossible, because we believe in the slogan 'no integration without representation' - the man once sentenced to 13 years of solitary confinement and hard labour on trumped-up charges of being a CIA spy, said. "Only when we are in the Knesset will the prejudice and pater-

nalism with which we have been treated end."

Mr Sharansky, whose obvious integrity, hero status and far-reaching ideas for liberalising the Israeli economy, notably the stifled housing market, have won potential supporters outside the new immigrant community, spelt out the difference in his status now to that when he arrived in February 1986 to a euphoric welcome after being freed in an East-West spy swap.

"Ten years ago it was the triumph of my life. I was a hero. I was loved by everybody," he recalled with the infectious grin that is his trademark. "This time I am not coming to bless the people. I am coming to ask people for help. Vote for me, so now it is very different."

Mr Sharansky said that his nine years in jail, during much of which he kept sane by playing mental chess, had taught him "not to be seduced, not to be bought by the establishment, even if it is a benign establishment without such things. God forbid, as the KGB and the gulags." As a result, his pledge that Israel Bealiya will remain independent is convincing after a ten-year gap in which he refused to join other Israeli parties.



Natan Sharansky, announcing yesterday that he would open talks about his inclusion in the new Israeli government with whoever becomes Prime Minister

'Kashmiri militants' kill 25 in Delhi blast

FROM COOMI KAPOOR IN DELHI

AT LEAST 25 people died and more than 50 were injured when a car bomb exploded in a crowded Delhi marketplace yesterday.

Police and firemen were last night still pulling bodies from the debris. The death toll is expected to rise as there was a dancing school on the top floor of a three-storey building which was destroyed in the blast.

An anonymous caller claiming to be from the Jammu and Kashmir Islamic Front telephoned the Press Trust of India and claimed responsibility for the explosion. He said the bombs were planted to protest against the government-held polls due to be held in Kashmir on Friday and killings carried out by the Indian Army in the valley.

The bombs were placed in a white car parked at the Lajpat Nagar shopping centre. Witnesses said there were three loud blasts and glass was shattered up to 200 yards away. More than 25 cars were destroyed.

Baghdad hails UN oil-for-food deal as Saddam victory

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ'S propaganda machine yesterday hailed a tough oil-for-food deal signed at the United Nations as a victory for President Saddam Hussein, and presented it as a half-way house to the lifting of overall sanctions.

As the Iraqi dinar strengthened and food prices tumbled in Baghdad's markets, the state-run *al-Jumhuriya* newspaper trumpeted: "Today we caused a crack in the wall of the embargo, tomorrow we shall pull it down."

Much of the Arab world also welcomed the agreement, which is expected to alleviate the suffering of nearly 20 million demoralised Iraqis.

Western diplomats monitoring Iraq from Jordan said the deal was a short-term "shot in the arm" for Saddam and warned it could free money for him to buy weapons. But they said it would prolong the wider embargo because the UN would no longer feel pressured by the suffering of ordinary Iraqis.

One European diplomat cautioned that the agreement could still collapse because Baghdad had yet to submit a detailed food distribution plan before Iraq could sell a limited amount of oil for humanitarian supplies. "We expect a

period of haggling over the implementation. It's quite possible Saddam could put forward unacceptable demands, then tell his people it's the Americans and the British who have scuppered the deal," the diplomat said.

Baghdad's ruling elite have not suffered under sanctions which Saddam has used as an instrument of social control. The security services, his ruthless organs of repression, have remained pampered. A privileged clique led by his eldest son, Uday, have become multi-millionaires as black-marketeers.

Meanwhile, infant mortality has increased and an estimated one million Iraqis under the age of five are malnourished. Hospitals, once among the best equipped in the Arab world, complain of lack of medicines to treat diseases like tuberculosis, which had virtually been eradicated before the embargo. Some psychiatrists say they have reverted to electric shock treatment for patients because drugs like valium are no longer affordable.

Rampant inflation has left those on fixed salaries impoverished, forcing them to sell treasured possessions for food and medicine.

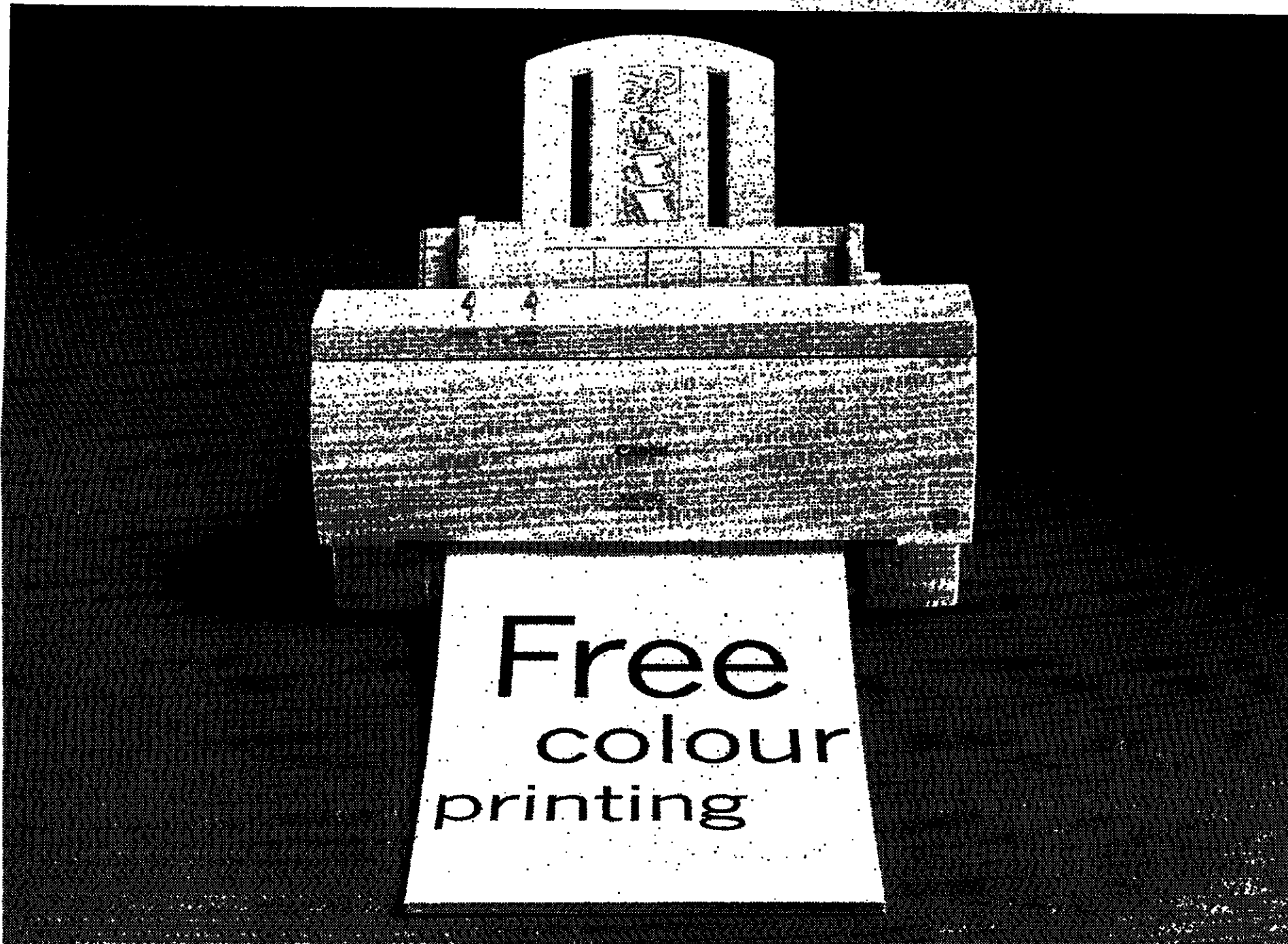
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Jean-Michel Séguin, curator of Auguste Rodin's Meudon home, with *The Thinker*, part of an exhibition of the sculptor's works

Vaults surrender Rodin treasures

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE basement of Auguste Rodin's country house on the outskirts of Paris is a hidden treasure-trove of anatomical artistry, containing thousands of plaster heads, bodies, feet and hands created by France's greatest sculptor as "rough drafts" for his later works.

Here can be found busts of the *Burgers of Calais*, early versions of *The Thinker* and plaster fragments of "work in progress" for other celebrated statues. Together they provide an extraordinary glimpse into Rodin's methods and the meticulous attention to detail of an artist revered as the Michelangelo of his time.

After his death in 1917, the plaster-work wrought by Rodin and his assistants was preserved and, for decades, all but forgotten, left to gather dust in the vaults of La Villa des Brillants, the elegant hilltop house overlooking Paris where Rodin lived and worked for the last 22 years of his life.

Later this month an exhibition will open revealing a small fraction of his vast plaster hoard, laid out in the pavilion next to the villa in the suburb of Meudon.

dent Rodin expert, shrugs when asked to estimate how many plaster sculptures the artist left. "Ten thousand, maybe fifteen thousand," he says.

Rodin's work usually began with a sketch, then a clay model, followed by numerous plaster sculptures before the forms were cast in bronze or finished in marble. The images that have since become so familiar can be charted as they evolved from vague shapes of clay through myriad plaster drafts into statues of breathtaking power and clarity.

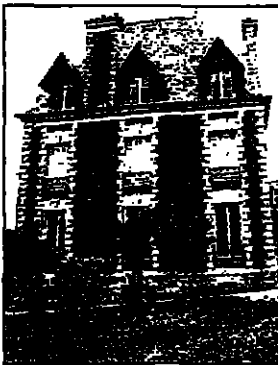
"Rodin was remarkably exact in his work, down to

the last fingernail," explains M Séguin, pointing to a tiny clay model with the artist's thumb-prints still clearly visible on the surface.

The sculptor's prolific output from the Meudon workshops was partly the result of this "archive" of torsos, fingers, arms, feet and heads, from which he could select body parts to explore shapes and ideas. "It was like he was working with Lego," M Séguin says.

While the Musée Rodin at the Hôtel Biron on the Left Bank in central Paris is a prime tourist attraction, the Villa des Brillants is a seldom-visited gem less than half an hour from the city. This year the villa will be open to visitors every weekend until the end of October.

Where the museum displays Rodin's sculptures in grand style, the villa provides a more intimate vision of the artist: his dining-room, his gardens, the room where he married his long-time companion, Rose Bueret, two weeks before her death, and the workshop where Rodin himself died — of cold — less than a year later, aged 77.



La Villa des Brillants: a seldom-visited gem



Some of the thousands of plaster sculptures that were preserved in the basement of Rodin's home of 22 years after his death in 1917

Photographs, Tony White

Strikes signal growing revolt against Kohl welfare reform

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

NURSES and hospital orderlies yesterday joined bus drivers, dustmen, postmen and civil servants in a nationwide campaign of short protest strikes that is bringing chaos to Germany.

The confrontation is in the first instance about wage rises — public sector unions want a 4.5 per cent increase — but it is turning into something far more damaging: a broad resistance front against reform of the German welfare state.

The results of the overblown or mismanaged public sector can be seen in every doctor's waiting room. In the Bonn orthopaedic surgery of Viktor Schlicht yesterday, 80 patients queued for up to two hours to see the doctor about back or shoulder pain.

A young woman admitted she had not much more than a twinge. "But why take risks? Medical insurance pays for it and I need a chitty to take more time off work." Later she had an X-ray and an ultrasound test and gained the piece of yellow paper which ensured that she can stay at home until next Monday.

Germany has not become a nation of malingerers — its

productivity figures are still respectable — but plainly the social welfare legislation established by Bismarck — "to kill socialism with kindness" — has taken on the dimensions of a dirge. The country is near the top of the European absenteeism league; it has the largest number of public holidays; the oldest graduates and the youngest pensioners.

Bus drivers who paralysed

for next year's summer holiday in Tunisia. One worker told *Bild* yesterday he could now only afford a second-hand car. No tragedy, one might think, but the comments conceal an explosive sentiment. As Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, tries to push ahead with his €15 billion worth of public spending cuts — needed to make Germany fit for European monetary union — so Germans are

foreigners — witness the general decline in neo-Nazi violence — and towards the governing class.

Latest investigations show that civil servants in Bonn ministries are working only 31 hours a week on average because of entitlements. The tabloid press duly expressed its outrage yesterday when it found a 42-year-old senior official in the Finance Ministry who, using various excuses, has taken off the past eight months.

Strong criticism of Herr Kohl can be heard from my local optician. He will no longer be able to offer subsidised frames and can see a large chunk of his business disappearing. In plush spas such as Baden Baden — conservative heartland — the mood is also hostile. Under Herr Kohl's plans, Germans will be able to take spa cures only three weeks every four years, instead of four weeks every three years.

The Chancellor is trying, in a small way, to change the rules and the result is uproar. The *Handelsblatt* business newspaper yesterday called it "the revolt of the dwarfs".

Anger in Germany is shifting away from foreign migrants and workers and towards the governing class

so many cities yesterday take home 2,400 marks (£1,000) a month. Despite the persistent claims that Germany's high labour costs are pricing the country out of world markets, that salary does not add up to a great deal here.

The problem is one of expectations. Germans have come to take for granted annual foreign holidays. Now they are having to spend a year at home to save the cash

clinging on ever more tenaciously to their privileges.

The first instinct of Germans was to ask why foreigners are seeking out so many of their benefits — refugees and asylum seekers are supported as local council bidders; British, Polish and Russian labourers are undercutting Germans on the building sites. The Government has got tough on both counts. Now the anger is shifting away from

Date set for Karadzic evidence

FROM REUTER IN THE HAGUE

THE United Nations criminal tribunal for former Yugoslavia announced yesterday that it would hear evidence against Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, and Ratko Mladic, his military chief, next month under its Rule 61 procedure.

Dr Karadzic and General Mladic have been indicted twice in their absence by the tribunal. They are accused of being responsible for genocide and crimes against humanity in connection with the seizure of Sarajevo and the fall last year of the UN "safe area" at Srebrenica, where 6,000 Muslims are believed to have been slaughtered.

"Rule 61 is a reminder that the accused are charged with crimes which demand a legal accounting," Christian Chatter, the tribunal spokesman, said.

In a separate development, Alex Ivanko, an UN spokesman in Pale, said last night that murder confessions extracted from a group of Muslims held by Bosnian Serb authorities were obtained through torture and were not admissible as evidence.

Russian poll rivals try to conjure with Sakharov's legacy

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday invoked the memory of Andrei Sakharov, the late Soviet dissident leader, in an attempt to remind the Russian nation of the brutal legacy of Communist authority.

Visiting Sakharov's tomb in Moscow, on the 75th anniversary of the birth of the prize-winning physicist, the Russian leader praised the man who helped to bring down Communist rule. "Sakharov taught us what democracy was, not only by his words, but also by his actions," Mr Yeltsin said.

His remarks were intended to shore up his democratic credentials, battered by the conflict in Chechnya, and to remind his compatriots of the harsh realities of Soviet life, which so many look back on with nostalgia.

Sakharov, who helped to develop Russia's atomic bomb, went on to become the country's foremost dissenter, launching an effective campaign against the war in Afghanistan and laying the foundations for Russia's first democratic government. The

anniversary of his birth was also marked by the opening of Moscow's first human rights museum, which catalogues the Kremlin's campaign against him and offers grim reminders of the worst crimes committed by Stalin.

Mr Yeltsin's election team has also tried to capitalise on fears of a Communist return with the publication of a six-page propaganda free-sheet called *God Forbid!*. It includes a full-page colour photograph of Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, dressed as a surgeon and holding a sharpened hammer and sickle in preparation for a bloody operation on Russia.

Mr Zyuganov, who is neck-and-neck with Mr Yeltsin in the presidential race, has been stung by the criticism. Last week he made a point of laying flowers at Sakharov's home in Nizhny Novgorod.

Asked what Sakharov would have made of the new Russia, Yelena Bonner, his widow, said: "We have yet to say farewell to our totalitarian psyche, even though we now live in a different state."

Spain let off £230m EU fine

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

FRANZ FISCHLER, the European Commissioner for Agriculture, has agreed a special waiver of a £230 million fine on Spain for breaching common agricultural policy (CAP) regulations. The deal, which was disclosed yesterday in the *El País* newspaper, was agreed last November.

The revelation coincides with Madrid's decision to take a hard line against Britain on the easing of the European Union beef embargo. The secret deal, reached by Herr Fischer and Luis Atienza, the former Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, amounts to a hefty subsidy for the Spanish agricultural sector, as the fine would have to have been paid from Spain's current budget.

The problem arose from Spain's extended drought last year, which prompted Spanish farmers to exceed by nearly a third the area of land permitted for cultivation of cereals under CAP regulations. This was done to ensure that Spain's output of cereals did not suffer a drastic reduction, but no attempt was made to obtain prior agreement from Brussels.

Faced with the prospect of a £230 million fine, as well as a punitive year-long fallow period, Señor Atienza approached Herr Fischer for "special consideration". Although EU drought relief is not uncommon, it normally occurs in the form of subsidies in the subsequent year, not in the form of exemptions from fines.

New safer Zeppelin poised for maiden flight

BY ROGER BOYES

IT IS trimmer, cleaner and, one hopes, safer, but the new Zeppelin still looks unmistakably like a flying cigar.

Almost a century after Count Ferdinand Adolph August Heinrich von Zeppelin weighed the anchor on his pioneering airship, the Germans have announced plans to fill the skies with a new generation of airships. The Zeppelin NT, developed at the Count's old base in Friedrichshafen in southern Germany, will be unveiled on July 2, 96 years after the original made its first flight. The new ship is expected to be declared airworthy in the autumn and to make its maiden flight next year.

The Zeppelin NT (New Technology) is the size of a jumbo jet but will carry only 12 passengers. Mass production is to begin in 1998. The company also has models for 46-seat and 84-seat airships ready to exploit what it believes to be a market niche for those who do not like helicopters or conventional aircraft. However, will the new airship be able to erase the memory of the *Hindenburg*, which exploded while trying to dock with its tower in America in 1937?

Unlike the *Hindenburg*, which was filled with explosive hydrogen, the new Zeppelin will use helium. The airship has also been adapted to the modern age. "Even though it is only half as heavy as the old airships, it is so robust that it can stay in the air even if there is a collapse in internal pressure," said Bernhard Seif, head of assembly.

Three engines with mobile propellers give Zeppelin NT the same manoeuvring skills as a helicopter. A computer supported "fly-by-wire" system — as used in the Airbus — allows it to land and take off at precise locations. That was one of the weaknesses of the old Zeppelins, which sometimes drifted miles off course.

Count Zeppelin faced stiff competition in his time and the successor company set up by his daughter does not lack rivals. Airships are being designed and constructed by companies in the United States, Britain,

Canada, Russia and elsewhere in Germany in the race to set up the first tourist service since the *Hindenburg* disaster. Some estimates suggest there will be 100 Zeppelin-style airships in

the skies by 2000. "The era of the airship is fast approaching," said Jürgen Böck of the German Aerospace Association.

The first 12-seat Zeppelins are intended for sightseeing tours, a short flight, for example, overland King Ludwig's Neuschwanstein Castle, the Niagara Falls, or the National Park in Tenerife. "We have eight serious inquiries for the first NT generation," Hartwig Ochel, the Zeppelin marketing director, said.

He estimates that the price of a trip will be about £300 a passenger. The plan is to sell about 40 of the 12-seat airships, with some being used by governments for cartographers, charting jungle paths, or for military surveillance.

Certainly the project has caught the imagination of the Germans, who remember the Zeppelins as one of the great technical triumphs of the newly united country. The disasters have long since been forgotten.



Von Zeppelin: airship pioneer

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Prodi's anti-Mafia crusade starts with Godfather's arrest

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME AND FRANCESCO BONGARRA IN PALERMO

THE dramatic arrest of Giovanni Brusca, Italy's top Mafia boss, in a raid by 400 armed police at a seaside villa in Sicily was greeted yesterday with euphoria in Palermo and relief throughout Italy.

It was seen as a coup for the new Government led by Professor Romano Prodi, who took over as Prime Minister last weekend vowing to crack down on organised crime, which he said was "our country's No 1 problem".

The special anti-Mafia police unit, wearing black balaclava masks, burst in through the doors and windows when they were sure Brusca was inside, together with his brother, Vincenzo, and their wives and children. They had sealed off the area 48 hours earlier, after a police agent recognised Brusca's voice on a tapped telephone line. Brusca — known even to fellow members of the Corleone clan as The Beast because of his ruthless brutality — surrendered without resistance, apparently honouring the Mafia code that forbids violence in the presence of a gangster's close family.

Police say Brusca, 36, masterminded the murder four years ago of Giovanni Falcone, the highly regarded anti-Mafia judge. The hunt

switches to two other Mafia bosses behind the Falcone murder, Bernardo Provenzano, known as The Tractor because of his habit of "mowing people down", and Pietro Aglieri, who was convicted two years ago of masterminding a heroin trafficking operation.

Brusca replaced "Totò" Riina — also from the Corleone clan — as the Mafia "boss of bosses" when Riina was arrested in the 1993 anti-Mafia crackdown after Falcone's death.

Mafia informers say it was Brusca who pressed the detonator button that set off a bomb beneath the Palermo airport motorway on May 23, 1992, just as the judge's armoured car was passing. Falcone's wife and three bodyguards were also killed.

The late judge's sister, Maria, said the Italian state was fighting the Mafia with "real force, as it should have done years ago". The capture of Brusca was the result of months of surveillance, but its nonetheless seen as a windfall for the left-wing Prodi administration, which won the elections a month ago and has taken office with unusual speed.

Giorgio Napolitano, the veteran former Communist Interior Minister, said Brusca's

arrest was an "extraordinary success for the forces of law and order".

Brusca is also wanted for the 1993 bombings of art galleries in Rome and Florence, and was sentenced to life in absentia in 1992 for the murder of a tax inspector with Mafia links.

The most gruesome of his many reported crimes was the murder of the 11-year-old son of a fellow mafioso and family friend who turned state witness over the Falcone murder. According to Mafia witnesses, Brusca personally strangled the boy, Giuseppe di Matteo, and later dissolved his body in an acid bath as an act of revenge.

The Brusca brothers had taken refuge in the villa in the small seaside resort of Cannitello, near Agrigento, after their armed underground bunker in the hills near Palermo was uncovered three months ago. By a stroke of irony, when the police finally moved in they found the brothers calmly watching a documentary on television marking the anniversary of the Falcone assassination.

Rino Monaco, head of the anti-Mafia unit, said he was happy to have Brusca behind bars. "We have been hunting him for months, and nearly got him several times," he



Anti-Mafia police, wearing masks to protect their identity, escort Giovanni Brusca to a top-security jail yesterday

said. The police convoy taking the Brusca brothers to jail in Palermo stopped en route to pay homage at the roadside tree marking the spot where Falcone was blown up, which has become a local shrine. Sicilians yesterday laid flowers along the motorway in tribute.

At the weekend, in his first act after taking over from

Lamberto Dini, the "technocrat" Prime Minister, Signor Prodi addressed a conference on organised crime in Palermo by video link. He said he was "earnestly and totally committed" to Sicily and the south, and his Government would "multiply its efforts in the fight against organised crime". Louis Freeh, head of the FBI, promised that Italy

and the United States would join forces to cut off Mafia revenues. "We cannot wait for another tragic event like a bombing," Mr Freeh said. The anti-Mafia drive is also aimed at boosting confidence and investment in southern Italy. Signor Prodi, who unveils his government programme in parliament today, has put the economy at the top

of his agenda. He believes that undercutting the Mafia and creating jobs in the south are linked, since the Mafia feeds on unemployment.

The new Speaker of the Lower House, Luciano Violante, is a prominent former anti-Mafia lawyer, and Nicola Mancino, the Senate Speaker, was Interior Minister at the time of Riina's arrest.

Suu Kyi defiant after 44 detained

By JOANNA PITMAN

BURMA'S pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, said yesterday that a three-day meeting of her National League for Democracy will go ahead on Sunday at her home in Rangoon, despite the arrest of 44 of her key supporters.

"This won't affect plans to hold the conference," she said. "Everyone is calm. I expect the people of Rangoon will behave very sensibly. They know how we will want them to act. Every person knows how to do their duty."

The arrest of the activists by the Burmese military authorities highlights once again the degree of repression still prevailing in a country which officially claims the mantle of a liberal, progressive and newly developing nation.

The activists were planning to attend the meeting to mark the sixth anniversary of the election victory of Daw Suu Kyi's party. Its huge majority of the popular vote — more than 80 per cent — was annulled, and the party has since been subject to severe restrictions. Public meetings are forbidden and political publications banned.

Daw Suu Kyi, the Nobel prize-winning opposition leader, has struggled since 1988 to bring democracy to a country ruled by one of the world's most repressive regimes. She suffered six years under house arrest for her efforts and thousands of her countrymen have been imprisoned or murdered at the hands of a military junta increasingly fearful of democracy.

Her release last July was seen by many, including Daw Suu Kyi herself, as an effort by the authorities to repair Burma's image in the eyes of the West and to clear the conscience of foreign investors keen to put funds into new tourist and industrial developments and to tap a potentially lucrative new market.

The funds have been flooding in, but the political climate has not improved. Daw Suu Kyi is still far from free. Her phones are tapped, her mail is censored, her home watched and her movements are severely circumscribed. Weekend meetings at her home are also monitored by the authorities.

De Klerk's withdrawal opens door to Communist power

COMMUNIST Party members are likely to gain from the National Party's decision to follow its withdrawal from South Africa's government by quitting its provincial government seats, too. The only exception to the retreat is the Western Cape, where F.W. de Klerk's party is in the majority.

The gaps, it seems clear, will largely be filled by the powerful South African Communist Party, strengthening its already formidable grip on the reins of power.

In Gauteng province, for example, which includes Johannesburg and Pretoria and produces more than half the country's wealth, all three departing Nationalist ministers will be replaced by Commu-

nists, complementing a strong Communist representation.

An exact count is difficult because of the party's secret as well as open membership. Thus the Gauteng premier, Tokyo Sexwale, is not an open party member but, as the closest friend and associate of Chris Hani, the murdered Communist Party boss, it is implausible to imagine that he declined to join.

The same situation prevails in the national Government. Among the avowed Communists are the Ministers for Police, Trade, Constitutional Affairs and Social Welfare, as well as the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Finance and Defence. The Ministers for Transport, Foreign Affairs and Defence were

The Communist Party has succeeded sooner than it expected in South Africa. Now it has come to a strategic crossroads, writes R. W. Johnson

once party members and may still be, while it is widely assumed that the Ministers for Justice and for Posts are also covert members.

On top of that, the two men who run the offices of the President and Deputy President are party stalwarts. The acting Secretary-General of the African National Congress and many heads of powerful parliamentary committees belong. Trade union leaders are members, too. The only countries where Commu-

nists have a stronger grip on power are North Korea, Cuba and China.

None of these figures has gained his or her position because of a deal over the party's role in government. They have been promoted because they are, almost without exception, the ANC's best and brightest. The Communists are legendary for working harder than their ANC comrades, for turning up on time and being better organised. The Communists are at a strate-

gic crossroads. For more than 40 years its aim was to ride to power as the ANC's Leninist vanguard, and it has done so in textbook fashion. Party theorists characterise the present period as the "national democratic phase" of the revolution, in which power is shared with non-socialist elements. The theory is that ultimately those elements will depart, enabling a consolidation of working-class power in an avowedly socialist phase.

The Communists were not ready to see the Nationalists — the main non-socialist element — leave the Government of National Unity of their own volition, handing ministries over on a plate. And while it has happily accepted what has

come its way, neither it nor the country's faltering economy looks ready for a phase of "socialist transformation". Indeed, the prime government concern at the moment is to protect the rand.

As it is, the devaluation to date is bound to bring large-scale industrial unrest next year. Communist ministers may well end up ranged against Communist-led unions.

In exile the party assumed when it came to power it would be bolstered by the Soviet bloc. Now such prospects have collapsed and there is no sign it has a new strategy. Instead, like politicians of all stripes around the world, it finds being in power is largely a matter of trying to muddle through.

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Mad hatters with cool heads

Three young graduate milliners are already turning heads on and off the catwalks

Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

At London Fashion Week earlier this year one of the highlights was the show of the milliner Philip Treacy. The young Irishman's hats — fluttering feathers, giant shells, and high-gloss fins — wowed the audience, while his international reputation (since he left the Royal College of Art in 1990 in a blaze of publicity, Treacy has created hats for the likes of Chanel, Valentino and Gianni Versace) was enough to woo two supermodels, Kate Moss, Trish Goff and Kristen McMenemy to fly into London to show off his designs.

"It is exciting to make hats today, considering millinery is seen as the dinosaur of the business," says Treacy. "When you sell a hat you appeal completely to that person's sense of the aesthetic."

Treacy and his hats are at the cutting edge of millinery and fashion. His fantastic vision has focused a whole new generation. This summer not one, but three milliners will graduate from the RCA.

Ian Bennett, Pip Hackett and Scott Wilson have fashioned their own careers in the satin slipstream of Treacy.

"When Philip left the Royal I saw some of his hats and thought they were amazing," says Wilson. The trio are certainly carrying on the tradition for the extraordinary and exquisite. They have not opted for conventional hats of the brim and crown variety made in this season's colours and fabrics, but have instead sculpted their own blocks (a base onto which a hat is shaped), created their own materials, and let their imaginations soar. Their individual styles are distinct. Hackett favours the glamorous ("I would like to make hats for disco divas and Hollywood actresses"), Wilson would like to create excitement with his millinery theatrics (his feath-



ABOVE LEFT: Light in The City pink holographic sequin hat, Pip Hackett, to order (0171-229 6725). Shocking pink satin coat dress with diamanté buttons, £923.

ABOVE RIGHT: Black wispy crin and feather headdress, Scott Wilson, to order (0171-241 3599). Red satin and black lace corset, £490; matching satin skirt, £812.

RIGHT: Embroidered red organza lace hat, Ian Bennett, to order (0171-370 6136). Red raw silk crossover back dress, £488.

All clothes by Belville Sassoon/Lorcan Mullary, 18 Cufford Gardens, SW3 (0171-581 3500)



Photographs by ROD NISSEN PETZER
Make-up by Sharon Ives, hair by Giovanni di Stefano

ery hat featured is a cross between a mask and a head-dress). Bennett has opted for elegant, if somewhat monumental, forms. "I try to be classic, to use a simple shape and do something different with the fabric. You need to give people something extra special."

Certainly the need to identify a market appears paramount.

"It is a question of finding the right pigeonhole to slot into," says the milliner Stephen Jones, who reigned the trend for hats in the early 1980s when his designs topped the heads of London's demi-monde, and who has recently created hats to complement

the designs of Designer of the Year John Galiano. "It's not a particularly lucrative profession, but nobody goes into millinery for money, but because they love it."

"The last thing I expected was to be running a business," says Treacy. "It was quite startling to discover I had to market my interest in hats."

Graham Smith, who attended the Royal College of Art in the late 1950s and designed hats for the international jetset, including the Duchess of Windsor and Barbara Hutton, applauds the fresh talent, but has words of warning. "They may think it's a very glamorous profession but you're constantly meeting



In Treacy's footsteps: Scott Wilson (left), Pip Hackett and Ian Bennett sculpt their own blocks

deadlines, crossing hurdles and overcoming problems. You don't sit around all the time pinning hats together. To survive you have to establish a clientele and produce the things they want. You have always got a client in mind when you make a hat."

Bennett, Hackett and Wilson have already had their taste of compromise. Before attending the RCA Hackett had a shop called The Mad Hatter, and some of her designs are already available at Liberty; during the MA course Bennett worked with design label Red or Dead, and all three have seen their hats sell in Harrods (the result of a collaborative project between the college and the Knightsbridge store). They were also

asked by fashion designers Pearce Pionda to accessorise the design duo's collection for the catwalk.

"They were thoroughly professional, like people who had been in business for 20 years," says Andrew Pearce. "They seem to adore what they do, right down to the last stitch."

Although they each admit that they still have much to learn about the craft, the trio are keen to leave the hallowed halls of education. "It will finally be good to call myself a milliner," says Hackett.

"There is certainly room for lots more milliners," says Treacy. "At one time in London there were seven thousand hatmakers; today there are maybe seven."

Now there are three more.

HOW TO STAY AHEAD OF THE REST

PHILIP TREACY: "Sophisticated shapes rather than overly decorated. This season shape is more important than fluffiness."

GRAHAM SMITH: "Important colours are navy and cream, the ice-cream tones and pale blue. A large brim for a glamorous occasion, and while trimmings are in abundance customers really come to me for a plain sculpted hat."

PHILIP SOMERVILLE: "Very dramatic in black and white, like the hats in *Death in Venice* or *My Fair Lady*. Pale pinks, pale blues and, my favourite colour at the moment, mimosa — but all very big."

STEPHEN JONES: "A big, simple shape and not too frilly. Lots of white, white, white which is very flattering."

GILLY FORGE: "A mix of neutral and brights, chalky pastels, black and white or cream and navy. The hats are smaller and softer."

SUSY KRAKOWSKI: "Large hats with oversized brims, along with smaller shapes with lashings of flowers, net and feathers, excessive glamour."

HERBERT JOHNSON: "Heavy Edwardian crowns. The eternal pillbox. Black and white, pastels and turquoise."

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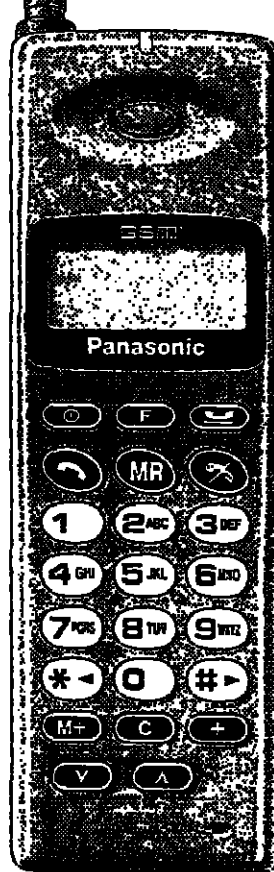
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مكتبة الامم

How can we stop sexual harassment?



Nigella Lawson

All women suffer loutish behaviour at work, but tribunals are not the answer

I DO NOT envy WPC Karen Wade: she says she is looking forward to returning to work: her Chief Constable professes to welcome her back. Within a week, he claims, she should be back in the force, with all this nasty business behind her. He has only good words to say of her: no bad feelings, that sort of thing: it takes courage to bring such an action and that should be applauded.

There is a horrid implausibility to all these statements, just as — I'm afraid — there was a horrid plausibility to the allegations made by WPC Wade. I do not say, in either case, that the various parties are lying. I am sure that the Yorkshire Police Force is not in the business of retributions, although I don't imagine for one instant it will be all sweetness and light for Wade and her erstwhile colleagues.

If an industrial tribunal rules that WPC Wade had no case against the police officers she accused of sexual harassment, then one must not question further their culpability. Nevertheless, it would be naive to imagine the police force to be innocent of the sort of ragging and boorish behaviour of which, in this instance admittedly, the officers in question were cleared. Implausible, too, is Ms Wade's assertion that she does not regret for one moment having brought the case, along with the claim that in doing so "I have given strength to others who find themselves in similar circumstances". If she truly believes this, then her judgment really is faulty, and to the point of being suspect. How could anyone, now, in similar circumstances find anything but discouragement in the tribunal's outcome? Some would say this is no bad thing.

That's the trouble, really. One knows exactly how this finding will be received in certain circles. One does not need to be there to hear the sneering, jubilant chorus of guffaws, the taunting triumphalism. I feel sorry for Ms Wade because in bringing this case she will — despite the 50 messages of support she rather pathetically cites — signally be seen to have lost her claim on our sympathy. One knows the barrage that will follow. Either she will be seen as a liar, motivated by maliciousness and spite, or as a whinger and a wimp. But we



WPC Karen Wade leaving the tribunal after losing her case: she will be seen to have lost her claim on our sympathy

all know that this sort of thing goes on. Even those who don't deny that come back swiftly with the if-you-can't-stand-the-heat-keep-out-of-the-kitchen response. There's precious little solidarity among the sisterhood. Come on girl, we female columnists say, we've all been there: get real or get out.

It's true, you know, we've all got stories we could tell. When I was up at Oxford, one tutor, noticing that when I read out my essays I'd pull my hair back from my face, suggested that "since it seemed to be part of the procedure of the tutorial, perhaps it should be the tutor's job". I thanked him for the offer but declined his help. Another don, who wasn't teaching me but was marking papers in the year when a boyfriend I had at the time was sitting finals, suggested that if I slept with him it might boost my boyfriend's marks. That time I was more perturbed, and went to my tutor (not the hair-fetishist one) about it. He said to ignore such idiocy, and I did, though I felt badly about it. In both cases, however, I felt that I was at least tougher and more worldly than some, and able to cope, but many of my contemporaries would have been far more panicked and much less able to hold their own. As it happens, I don't see that in either instance much good would have been served by my making an official complaint.

Nor would I want to bring cases against the male journalists who have leered, leched, expected me to make the coffee and do the photocopying. But I would hesitate, too, about being too breezy, too nonchalant, about it. Abuses of power do go on and I think they should be stopped. I am just not sure industrial tribunals are the way.

Perhaps the main difficulty is that such a culture of complaint has sprung up that there is no differentiation made between those real sorts of abuses of power and the mere irritation of laddish office banter. Enough people have by now claimed to be so wounded, so traumatised by some office jerk behaving as loutishly as office jerks do, that when something more serious happens, it too is trivialised, put down to insignificant badinage, to ordinary high spirits or misplaced camaraderie: no offence intended and none, therefore, to be taken.

There is a distinction, however, and it should be made. But having made it, how best then to proceed? One of the difficulties with the official complaints procedure is that it tends not to help those making the complaint to deal with the problem themselves. In other words, it may feel like a way of protecting oneself but in reality it can make one somehow more vulnerable. I do not go along with blaming the victim but I do say, find a way of not being a victim.

This can be hard if you're being bullied by someone who is in a position to harm or help you. I am sorry to say this but I think often it's better to grit your teeth and try to charm yourself out of the situation than come on heavy and exacerbate rather than defuse it. Why should men thus be saved from their own bad behaviour? Well, it might

make life easier for you, too. I don't mean one should give in, but that one should retaliate appropriately.

Sometimes the implications of what's going on are indeed too serious to be ignored. With any luck there will be someone else in the office who can turn to unofficially who will probably do a better job than any statutory set-up.

The fact that EU regulations will shortly make all companies employing more than 500 people set up some sort of in-house sexual offences board is not cheering. Nevertheless, retaliating appropriately can of course sometimes mean making an official complaint.

It is important first, though, to distinguish between behaviour that is offensive or upsetting from behaviour that is actually injurious or detrimental to one's prospects. Sometimes, naturally enough, the two categories overlap: certainly the latter probably includes the former, though the former doesn't necessarily involve the latter. In either case, though, there exists a real problem.

And the police force itself cannot claim a particularly good record in such matters. But perhaps if more individuals in charge took responsibility a little earlier on, cared even to admit what had been or is going on, fewer cases would need to be brought in the first place. For what has happened now, in Leeds, is as much about bad management as bad manners.

Perhaps the official complaints procedure — leading to industrial tribunals and sexual harassment cases, expensive and difficult to prove — is not always the right way of going about things. We should be wary, however, of inferring therefore that there is nothing of which to complain.

Quentin Letts on the colourful cast of a US case Rich men's downfall in the South Pacific

Tiny Saipan, a South Pacific isle cleft to the US Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is about 12 hours by jet from California — 12 hours, and a world, away from modern America with its public moralities, posturings and paradoxical excesses.

Pacific travellers say Saipan today is what Hawaii was half a century ago, unspoiled and innocent. Its remoteness and, more especially, its atmosphere of childlike blamelessness is what initially drew Larry Hillblom to Saipan in the late 1970s, after he had made his first million as co-founder of the international courier firm DHL.

It is also why he kept going back to a part of the world that time somehow forgot. Saipan, the "fervid bachelor" would tell friends, was the place he could think, a place to plot the business strategies which brought him great riches before he died last year, aged 52, when his vintage aeroplane plunged into the ocean.

It is now claimed that something else captured Larry Hillblom's attention in Saipan: little girls. Three former bar molls have come forward to claim that Hillblom took their virginity when they were barely pubescent. They say they bore children by the rich yet scruffy Westerner, and they want his money — all \$500 million of it. In his will Hillblom left the fortune to medical research at the University of California, but the three women say it belongs to their children.

The accounts of the three women are to be tested in a California court. The dispute may have to be settled by comparing the children's cell structures to the DNA of a mole which plastic surgeons removed from Hillblom's face two years ago and for some reason preserved in wax.

But it is so unlikely that this successful man moved to a land where his alleged sexual appetites could be satiated? Hillblom was not the first Western male to fall victim to the charms of the South Seas. The lure of the lei, that garland of welcome traditionally bestowed on visitors by bare-bosomed young hula dancers, is considerable.

Captain Cook and his men knew the spell cast by these waters, and the special sensuality of the people. Pacific islands have long been a refuge from the cares of the Western world, as well as a store of forbidden fruit. From Paul Gauguin to the energetic tycoon Sir Stamford Raffles, builder of Singapore, they have all known the magic of the region. The late, lubricious Lord Moyynhan, squire of downtown Manila in the 1980s, knew the temptations, as do US military personnel.

Joyce Brothers, a psychologist and pithy interpreter of the American male's motivations, explains: "The lass is always greener in

someone else's yard. Western men are brought up to treat women as equals, but these women in the Pacific islands are not equals. In their company the Western male can be big, important and adored as he has not been since he was three years old and sitting on his mother's knee."

In his native country Hillblom was not always recognised. He hated to wear a suit, and was normally to be found in jeans and a T-shirt. Once he arrived at a major Wall Street securities firm to discuss his investments. The commissionaire, mistaking him for a bum, refused him access.

Yeoryious Apallas, a leading San Francisco lawyer hired to represent the University of California in the dispute over Hillblom's estate, knew the eccentrically-dressed multimillionaire. "He was quirky in his lifestyle," Apallas recalls, "but he was an adventurer, a free spirit. He wanted to live in a less-developed area. He was also motivated by doing good. That is why he left his magnificent bequest." Is it possible to equate "doing good" with getting your sexual kicks by deflowering underage virgins?

The response of most Americans would be that the man did wrong. But in Saipan, a child may realise that being bedded by a rich Westerner may be the only route out of a life of penury. Hillblom probably understood Saipan better than any other *haole* (Westerner). He once ran for election to public office there, used his college legal training to draft laws for the country's constitution, was known by many of the 60,000 islanders, and liked to sue the US Government for bad things he thought it had done to his adopted countrymen.

Mei Kernahan, author of *White Savages in the South Seas*, has spent long periods of her life in the South Pacific. During her time as a special adviser to the Prime Minister of Karotonga she met many middle-aged white travellers who had decided to drop out and spend their time and money in the Pacific. "The locals would in fact prefer it if the Westerners simply sent money and just stayed at home," says Ms Kernahan. Another Pacific island group, the Marshalls, takes in about 200 Californian arrivals a month. "Most of them leave after one or two years," said a consular official. "At first they enjoy life with nature but then they get bored."

The Hillblom case is keeping a high percentage of the Saipan legal community in work. We may disapprove of what Hillblom allegedly did, but was it any worse than what the lawyers have done, which is to spread the Western disease of litigation? They aim to blow the lid off paradise, and that may be hard to forgive.



Danger in the islands

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Alan Coren



■ Vaulting ambition?
Buying golden opinions?
Infirm of purpose!

Macbeth does murder sleep. No question. I have lain awake since midnight thinking of nothing else, and it is now half-past four. And yes, since you ask, I did hear the owl scream and the crickets cry — either that or it was the cat next door sorting a mouse out and the people across the road winding their marriage up yet again. It is not easy to put your finger on peripheral stuff when you are struggling to direct every knackered brain cell towards a major career move.

For the prospectus from Macbeth plc arrived yesterday morning. From Stratford-upon-Avon. Express. Recorded delivery. Why did it do all this? It did all this because I had snipped and posted a coupon from *The Times* of May 8, offering me the opportunity to become involved in making the film for which Macbeth plc had been set up by its parent company, Cromwell Productions Ltd.

Now, since the conjunction of "opportunity" and "involved" is invariably a synonym for folding money and almost invariably also a synonym for plughole, you may well wonder why so fly a fellow as I should not have left his scissors lying safely on the shelf beside his bargepole, and turned his thoughts to better things; but that is only because you did not read the coupon. True, it invited subscriptions of not less than £500 in the project, but what it offered in return was not just a share in any net profit of the film, repayment of capital with interest, and a ticket for the world premiere, all of which one would expect, it also offered what one would never expect in a million years, viz "the right to appear as an extra in the film, and a listing in the credits".

A snip, or what? So I snipped. And now the glossy prospectus lies glimmering beside my bed, open at the application form which dangles a stardom requiring only my filling in of my chosen amount and writing the cheque for same.

But for how much? Put another way, stardom as what?

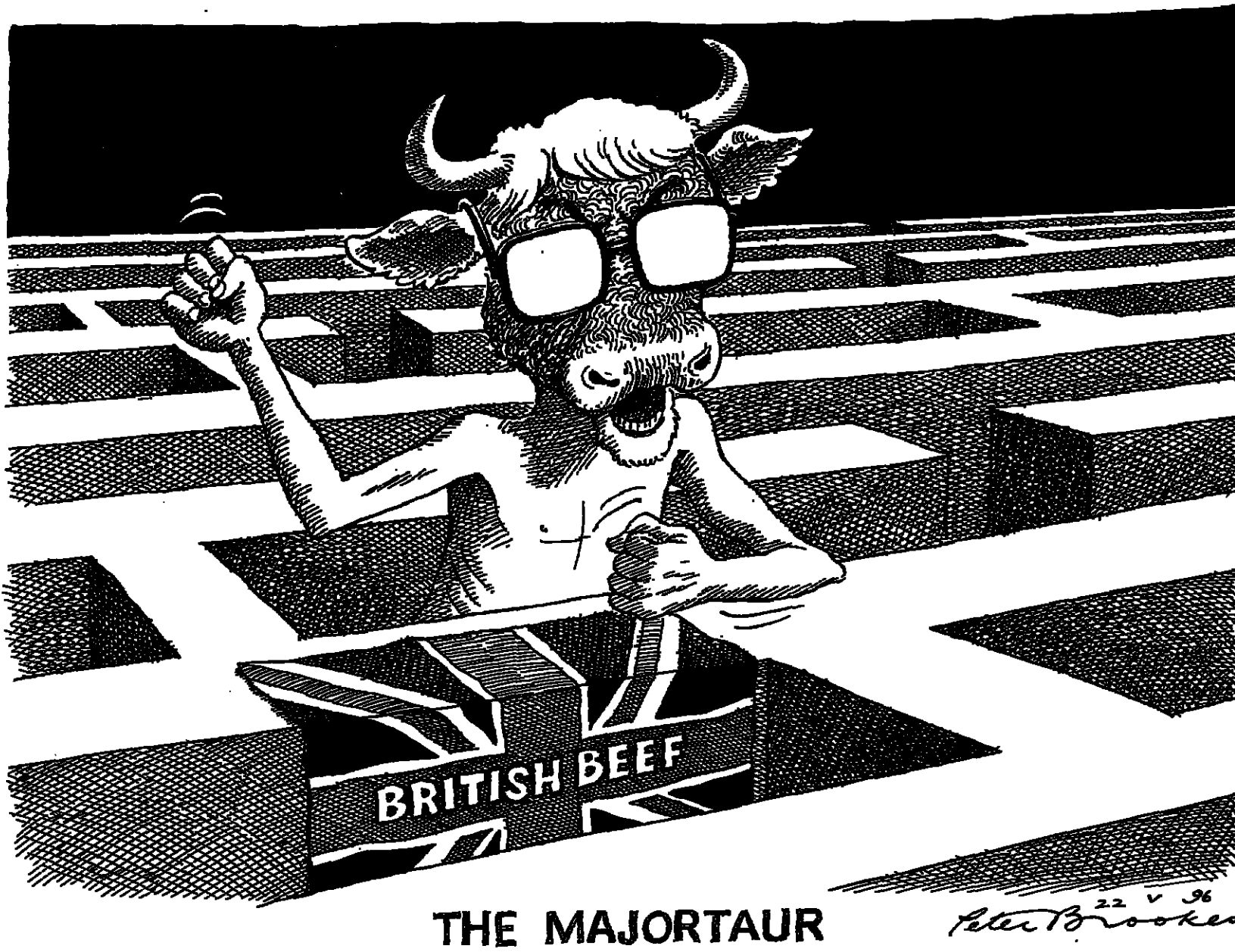
A tree, perhaps? A basic £500 ought to get me the part of a nice big fir, waddling from Birmam Wood to Dunsinane by virtue, you will recall, of the soldier concealed inside it. Not too much acting demanded there, you just wave your twigs about a bit, possibly do the odd wind-whistle or chirrup, I could do that. I can see the reviews now, "loath as I am to single out anyone from the stunning arboreal ensemble, if Alan Coren's brilliant conifer does not receive, at the very least, a nomination for Best Supporting Tree..." Nor, for another tactical grand, say, is it impossible that Macbeth plc would be averse to the minor textual change of "Till Crickie Wood remove to Dunsinane", bringing a special joy to countless local tradesmen, many with bills outstanding, though the cheques are of course in the post.

Invest a bit more, mind, and I could doubtless get my entire face on screen, not just one eye in a knot-hole. A couple of thousand for an Attendant, perhaps, three for a Lord, while five should almost certainly entitle me to a further textual tweak, and very nearly a speaking role.

Duncan: What bloody man is that? Not him, the other one. (Camera pans from seeping Corporal to Sergeant) He can report etc.

Then again, there's the Third Murderer slot: it has baffled critics since footnotes began, just the two come on in Act III, Scene i, so where is the missing hit-man? I see him up in the gallery, spottily, after the rest exult — call it Scene (i)a — doing an engaging bit of business, honing his dagger, perhaps, twirling his moustache, rolling an eye, licking a lip, cackling, all that; and if, furthermore, he suddenly whipped off his moustache to reveal the Bloody Corporal a split-second before the spotlight snapped off, we could be looking at a brand new subplot more than likely to put deconstructionism right back on its feet, especially if he reappears in Act V as a tree.

They could cost a bob or two, though, three different roles. That is why I lie here at, now, 5.30, fraught with indecision. A bit like Hamlet, really. Particularly if anyone from Hamlet plc is reading this.



THE MAJORTAUR

The centre strikes back

Already, Blair's commitment to devolution is yielding to the lure of big government

Yesterday's headline was bald: "Labour forced to reconsider 'tartan tax' plan". Labour is planning a tactical withdrawal from its pledge to devolve limited taxing powers to a Scottish assembly. The party is apparently afraid of losing votes in Scotland to the Tories, who portray local democracy as a spendthrift's charter.

For Labour to run scared of the Tories — and in Scotland — might be thought eccentric just now. But taxation was the heel by which Labour's current Achilles was dipped by his mother in the Styx. Tony Blair goes wobbly at the mere mention of the word. John Major has only to cry "tartan tax" and Mr Blair falls on Gordon Brown's shoulder screaming "No, no, please no".

Scottish independence is for the birds. But I do believe that a nation with a distinct history and geography and with a bigger population than, say, Norway, Denmark or New Zealand can be credited with some discretion over how it is taxed and governed. Mr Major says no. Until recently I thought that Labour said yes. Now I am not sure. The insidious tentacles of centralism are reaching out to grasp Mr Blair. The control-freaks of Downing Street are drawing him into their lair. Surely, they say, Mr Blair does not want to see spending out of his control. He is on the brink of Europe's most powerful office. Surely he will not cede to others powers that he is about to enjoy so deliciously himself?

Whenever Mr Blair suggests that the time has come to devolve power from Westminster and Whitehall to the regions or localities of the United Kingdom, I notice that he gives a nervous giggle. The Shadow Cabinet may have devolution fantasies, but the nearer these approach reality the more hesitant it becomes. Subsidiarity is for tomorrow. When the gates of Downing Street clang shut, new courtiers will encircle the throne and ask the king if he is man or mouse.

Two of my colleagues have, on this page in the past week, also poured scorn on Labour's moves to inject some devolution into the British constitution. On Monday, Matthew Parris castigated me for giving intellectual space to the "pimpling politics" of the Scots and the "pimpling politics" of the Welsh. I assume he would also suppress the Basques, tear up the German Constitution and tell Mr Major to stop talking devolution for Ulster.

All acolytes of big government, whether

politicians, civil servants or journalists, jeer at subsidiary authority as "primitivist". The joy of this creed is that it is music to the ears of any leader. Parris's contempt for regionalism would have won a cheer from late Roman emperors, from counter-reformation popes, Napoleon and Stalin and Jacques Delors.

Subsidiarity implies a threat to elites. On Saturday, Michael Gove attacked devolution in the guise of communitarianism, as if the Thatcher experiment had never happened. He cited right-wing pamphlets advocating less intervention and more scope for "individual autonomy". Such articles

confiscate individual wealth. Why do we not just accept such coercion for what it is, a ceaseless clash of individual and collective interests?

The one live political argument is how to make such coercion accountable, and at what tier of government. Here is the true divide, where sheep and goats go separate ways. Some go to Brussels, some even to the United Nations. Others rest content with nation states. Others see tiers below the nation state, regions, provinces, cities and parishes.

What is extraordinary in the articles by Parris, Gove and Himmelfarb is that not one of them mentions accountability.

Let alone that Cinderella of modern political debate, democracy. Philosophers from the Greeks to De Tocqueville, Mill and most recently Popper have regarded democracy as rather important. Countries that do not enjoy democracy feel the same. I sense that they will rarely find the word pass the lips of London's political commentators. It is too simplistic, too vulgar. It reminds them of the people.

Simon Jenkins

All historians of democracy reject its "atomised" form, in essence an elective dictatorship. They see the vote as a necessary but not sufficient condition for democratic participation. In a passage his Tory admirers prefer not to read, Hayek remarks that no democracy can work "without a great measure of local self-government, to provide a school of training (in citizenship) for people at large, as well as for their future leaders".

Democracy must tolerate free association in free institutions, right across the constitutional landscape. A centralised government cannot supply its own discipline. As we have seen under the Tories, it merely goes on accumulating power. There is no simple boundary between the community and the individual, any more than there is a simple boundary between different applications

of the word community. Mapping these boundaries is politics, indeed it is the best definition of politics I know. Nor, since the Thatcher years, can we glibly conclude that Tories tend to one side of the boundary and Labour the other. There are no anarchists left, and precious few true libertarians. There are certainly none in the present Government. We are all communitarians. The contempt for subsidiarity of a Kenneth Clarke, a Michael Howard or a John Gummer, like that of Parris and Gove, is merely the contempt of one community for another. To pretend, as some Tories do, that they are standing up for the individual and the family against some communal diabolism, is, on the evidence of the past decade, ludicrous.

Throughout European history, the arrogance of highly centralised power has elicited from its victims a crisp eventual response: a smash in the face. Such arrogance denies the diversity of Europe's peoples, its nations, its sub-national divisions, its islands, principalities, cities and towns. From Sicily to Jutland, from Andorra to Slovakia, from Finland to Gibraltar, this diversity is the essence of Europe. It has to be reflected in its politics or it will be reflected in its war, albeit now so-called terrorist war. Deny the diversity and you are not being clever, but stupid. Subsidiarity is not a gimmick or a tool of politics. It is politics by another name.

A change of government will at least change the terms of the debate. I bet that within a year of Labour taking office, Mr Blair will be trying to renege on his devolution pledges. The centralism of the late-Major era will continue undiminished. Labour ministers will have known no other way. They have watched daily at the dispatch box as ministers meddle obsessively in the minutiae of public administration, desperate for credits, Treasury bon-bons, sound-bites, publicity. Mr Blair will not allow the Scots to raise (or lower) taxes, any more than he will dare to free councils from rate-capping. Like Mr Major, he will want to spend every penny of taxes himself — and take the credit.

The good news is that the Conservatives will suddenly discover pluralism. Local elections will swing the Tories' way. Tory pamphleteers will sniff the wind and call for a thousand localisms to bloom. Then they will wonder how it was, back in the dire years of 1995-96, that the party's policy could have been so utterly barren.

Uniting around the veto

Major is right to gamble, argues

Nicholas Budgen

It is difficult to judge at the time whether a change of tactic has introduced a new policy and a change of political climate. But it is at least possible that yesterday we saw the Tory party reunited in a new and effective Euro-scepticism.

What are the essentials of John Major's announcement? A committee of veterinary surgeons, brought together to give their opinion of narrow scientific issues, has voted in response to wide national and political considerations. The EU ban on British beef has been continued, not for good scientific reasons, but in response to German demands that it be kept out. The Government is to respond by vetoing the activities of the EU when the national interests of other member states are involved. Britain promises to raise the problem of the beef ban at every EU forum.

After yesterday's statement, the Conservative Parliamentary Party offered unanimous support. For instance, Sir Peter Hordern, a life-long supporter of the idea of an ever-closer union, expressed his support while saying that this did not imply that there was any general wish to come out of the Community. The solid centre of the party has moved. Sensible county members such as David Nicholson may not worry too much about theoretical arguments over what effect the Maastricht treaty might have in ten years' time. But the ban on beef is affecting Taunton market and the dairy farmers of the South West. His new Euro-scepticism is born of constituency concerns, not of constitutional theory.

The mood of the Tory party has been changing these past seven weeks. The farming industry is very well organised politically, and farmers have exercised much pressure on their MPs. We are now also reminded of the considerable importance of the ancillary trades — the auctioneers, the abattoirs, the renderers, the transporters and others. The ramifications affect every constituency. The attitude of the British people is clear. We support British beef. Consumption has returned almost to pre-scare levels. This is a much a matter of national pride as an expression of dietary preference.

So the Prime Minister is on very firm political ground in taking vigorous action to support our national interest in Europe. The action itself is well considered. The exercise of the veto is a mechanism recognised within the Community. Taking of the issue to the European Court of Justice is the reverse of illegal: it confirms that court as the supreme court of the Community. There can be no objection to these tactics on the ground that they are either illegal or uncommunitarian.

So what happens now? It seems that opposition to the dropping of the ban on beef derivatives came mainly from Germany. There can be no doubt that concern about health — we would say an almost neurotic concern — is a German characteristic. Germany's consumption of its own beef has fallen by more than half. Clearly the Germans will be reluctant to let in our beef until consumption of their own picks up. Their allies in this matter are the Low Countries.

It will be difficult for either Germany or Britain to back down. There is little room for manoeuvre. There may be marginal scientific reasons for the removal of old cull cows from the food chain. But there is no scientific basis for the removal of all beef older than 30 months. At least these cattle were going to be slaughtered anyway. The European demand is for a considerable extension of the slaughter — condemning cattle to die simply because other members of their batch had BSE. The first proposal was for a sacrifice of 40,000 such cattle. Europe's gods were not placated. Then 80,000 were offered up and refused.

The ordering of the herds presents a real problem for the Government. These cows cannot be killed without legislation. The Government has already said that there is no scientific basis for such killing. It has said that the best that can be promised of such a policy is that one animal in 14 slaughtered might have BSE. It is very doubtful if the farmers, the vets or the House of Commons would agree to a major extension of the slaughter, to the killing of whole herds.

There are much wider implications too. If a few vets can act for entirely political reasons, might not the governors of a European central bank do the same? British monetary policy was tightened far too much in the summer of 1992. The cause was Germany's need to rein in monetary policy after reunification on terms which were very advantageous to the east. If we went into a single currency, might not Germany again act for German political reasons to the disadvantage of our builders, our property owners, our mortgage-holders and our small businesses dependent upon bank overdrafts? Yesterday the Government officially recognised that it had learnt another terrible lesson — equal almost to that of our exit from the ERM on Black Wednesday in September 1992 — about the EU's true nature.

The Tories are fortunate in the attitude of the Labour Party. Mr Blair yesterday expressed no opinion as to whether this is a good or a bad approach to Europe. He is now stuck with his Euro-enthusiasms. This will be a long battle, and the Tories hold the initiative. Let us hope that it leaves Britain with a new and looser relationship with the EU.

The author is Conservative MP for Wolverhampton South-West.

Lover Roy

THE ROMANTIC world of Roy Jenkins, claret-bibber, politician, award-winning biographer and mentor to Tony Blair, is to be explored in a BBC documentary this Sunday. The programme alleges that while married he had a number of love affairs with "high-born women", including Jackie Kennedy Onassis's sister, Princess Lee Radziwill.

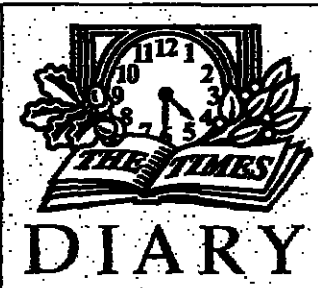
The programme, *A Very Social Democrat*, claims that the love affair with Lee developed while Jenkins's political star was rising

in the 1960s; he was a senior Cabinet minister and being tipped as a future Prime Minister. When his friend Jackie Kennedy visited Britain in 1966 with her sister, it was Jenkins who escorted the two to a National Theatre production at the Old Vic.

There has never been any doubt about Jenkins's appeal to the ladies, nor of his social contacts. In the febrile atmosphere of the 1960s, Harold Wilson feared that Roy was using aristocratic connections to oust him from office — an idea that Jenkins laughs off in the course of the intimate political portrait by the reporter Michael Cockerell.

Wilson even remarked to Barbara Castle that his ministers should not go "a-whoring after society hostesses". In the programme, Jenkins says: "If I was engaging in a plot to make myself leader, I don't think the way I would go about it would be to go a-whoring or anything else after society hostesses." Yesterday he wasn't commenting.

With Euro-sceptics rejoicing madly yesterday after John Major decided to muddy relations with Europe over beef, their leader



John Redwood was out of contact. "He's playing cricket, no mobile phone," wailed his office. Just as he was out of contact playing cricket last year on the eve of launching his Tory leadership challenge.

Some friends

LONDON'S Soho set have little time for dewy-eyed sympathy when visiting friends in hospital, if Robert McCrum is to be believed. The convivial, handsome McCrum, 42, had a stroke last summer, an event which had many of his friends at Soho's Groucho Club staring worriedly into their wine glasses. McCrum survived the catastrophe, though he has been left with some paralysis — as he movingly recounts in this week's *New Yorker* magazine. In those first weeks after the

stroke, a stream of friends visited him in hospital. One, after taking a good squirt, expressed bald relief that McCrum was "not a drooling vegetable". And the patient's then boss, Matthew Evans of Faber & Faber, arrived at the hospital fatigued by the number of inquiries he had received about McCrum's health. He was getting so bored of it all, said Evans blithely, that he was thinking of getting a lapel badge which read "Robert McCrum is dead".

● The Indian cricket squad underestimated the biting cold of a late English spring: too few woolly

jumpers were packed for their current tour. "Players have had to wear tracksuits under their jumpers," admits the team's manager, Sandip Patel, who started breaking yesterday when the sun broke through at the match against Northamptonshire.

Sleeping state

CHANNEL 4 is bracing itself for a barrage of complaints from unsuspecting viewers. The unexpurgated account of Tony Blair's stakeholder society is coming to a screen near you: *Will Hutton's New Labour bible. The State We're In*, is to be made into a three-part television series.

The programme's makers claim excitedly that Hutton, who recently became Editor of *The Observer*, "has been branded the most dangerous man in Britain". The gravest threat to viewers, however, is likely to be swallowing a fly in the course of a big yawn.

Leeds to glory

CHAMPAGNE CORKS are popping in Prince Edward's office at Buckingham Palace. A marriage has been arranged for December by his private secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer — not the Prince's long-awaited nuptials



Bride-to-be Annabel

to Sophie Rhys-Jones, but those of O'Dwyer's daughter Annabel to one Robbie Feather.

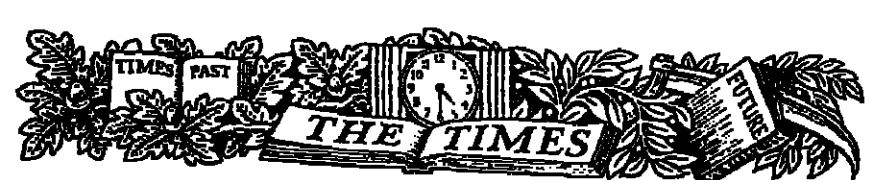
The happy couple will live in Yorkshire when wed. "It's Leeds, but I prefer to call it Yorkshire myself," said Annabel yesterday. "We have both enrolled in Prue Leith's cookery course. Robbie is very willing but not yet very good." He does, however, show evidence of taste. "While he was courting me he sent me a blue dress which he had chosen himself. It did the trick and we started going out."

P.H.S



Lee Radziwill

حکومت الائمه



AGAINST THE HERD

Major bids to turn beef into John Bull

The barricades have risen. John Major's decision to obstruct any progress in the European Union until the removal of the ban on British beef matches the growing exasperation of his party both in and out of Parliament. The audacity of the announcement reflects also the exhaustion of all other options. The Prime Minister has reassessed his command for the moment. He has also taken a great gamble. If, as before, strong words precede surrender then the consequences for his authority will be as before as well. But success could see the Tories recovering their reputation for resolution.

Since Stephen Dorrell's first, ill-fated, announcement of a possible link between BSE and a new strain of CJD two months ago the Government has been struggling to gain some kind of control over events. Maladroit ministers failed to take a consistent, coherent and confidence-building line. Europe's ban reflected the concerns of consumers in Britain and beyond.

Slowly, however, a sense of perspective has been restored. Domestic beef consumption has started to rise again. The EU Agriculture Commissioner, Franz Fischler, said there was insufficient scientific evidence to merit a ban on beef products. A majority of the Union's members voted on Monday to lift the ban on tallow, gelatine and semen. But a blocking minority of seven nations, led by Germany, insisted the ban should stay. All the attempts by the hapless Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, to bargain with Britain's EU partners were set at naught.

With quiet words in chancelleries having achieved so little, the Prime Minister was under pressure from his party to take Clausewitz's advice and continue diplomacy by other means. By choosing confrontation the Prime Minister has, for the moment, united the vast majority of his party. Even pro-integrationists feel the hot breath of angry rural voters on their necks. Whatever the rights or wrongs about beef and BSE the episode has encapsulated this Government's tendency to be driven by events beyond its control. By taking this stand the Prime Minister has a chance to use political

alchemy to turn the vexed issue of beef into the clear question of who is John Bull.

Already he seems to have stolen a march on Labour. Tony Blair's response in the House was reasonable in its content but in contrast with Mr Major's command, he seemed a nit-picking lawyer. When he accused Mr Major of using strong words not backed by the necessary detail, he was throwing stones from a glass house.

When the Prime Minister carries the fight to Brussels there is a risk that he will be bogged down in the Flanders mud. A policy of non-cooperation risks alienating those allies on other European issues which Britain has sought to win. It could prevent progress on expediting business where Britain has something to gain. It will create a resentment that will, whatever this episode's conclusion, take some time to heal.

But, beyond all that, if carried through with confidence, a policy of non-cooperation will demonstrate that Britain is determined to fight hard to safeguard its national interests. When General de Gaulle risked the wrath of his allies by holding up the development of the infant European Community to secure France's national interests, he guaranteed that his country's words would carry extra weight for years to come. Britain's budget rebate was not won until Margaret Thatcher swung her handbag.

If Mr Major's gamble is to succeed then it should mark a new departure in British policy. A tenacious capture of the kind outlined last week by the Home Secretary to see powers returned from Brussels to Britain must be pursued. The diplomatic strategy may also lead to a greater, political, gamble. By making Britain's relations with Europe the central political issue over the next few months, the Government could build on increasing disposable incomes, the threat from taxation and the recently, but vividly, established impression of divisions among the Labour leadership to rally the Conservative voters who delivered victory in the last four elections. They were won by boldness in the past. After drift and uncertainty they may yet be won by boldness again.

FAIRNESS AND FAVOURS

Labour is less likely to be tripped up by the unions than before

Not for a long time has the British public heard the menace of a trade union leader threatening the resolve of a Labour government. Yesterday, the whiff of flat beer and stale sandwiches seemed to pervade the words of Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, as he warned the Opposition that he would reject any agreement on pay with a future Labour government. Could this be a portent of future seasons of discontent?

Possibly, but probably not. The TGWU will not be offered an income policy by a Labour government. The issue is academic. Income policies are as dated now as flared trousers and kipper ties. The last Labour Government was brought down over public-sector pay but the current Labour Party does not even have a policy. Since the late 1970s, the landscape has dramatically changed.

For the past three years, the Government has, in effect, been running a public-sector pay policy by freezing the wage bill and allowing pay rises to be financed out of efficiency savings. Far from causing mayhem, as some predicted at the start, this has revealed how much money can be milked out of greater productivity. Labour is likely to adopt a similar approach, though it might widen the scope of cost saving by cash-limiting departmental budgets and allowing them to set the balance themselves between wages and other spending.

Beyond that, there is much less chance now than in the 1970s of individual ministers becoming caught in public-sector pay disputes. A large proportion of what was in the public sector then is now privately run —

telecommunications, water, gas, electricity, coal, rail and so on — and much of the rest is run by executive agencies at arm's length from ministers.

Of those workers who come under central government's remit, most have their pay determined either by performance or by a pay review board, and a few, such as nurses, have moved to locally determined pay. At the lowest pay levels public-sector workers would find their pay set automatically by the minimum wage. There are hardly any left whose wages would not be determined by a mechanism of some kind; most of these work in local government.

That is not to say that expectations of higher pay in the public sector do not exist. After 17 years of Conservative government there is a yearning for a Labour administration that might prove more generous. The desire, however, is likely to be unrequited. As Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, made clear yesterday in a speech to the TGWU, his spending priority is to educate and train the young unemployed, not to give in to union pressure for higher wages.

If Labour wins the next election, the first public-sector pay dispute will be painful. So will the second and third. But Mr Brown and his colleagues seem aware that a tough precedent has to be set. To the extent that new ministers have any say over pay levels, they will have to be no more generous than their Conservative predecessors in order to prevent a flood of higher claims. Backbenchers may complain: but the memory of 1978-79 ought to make the alternative too awful for Labour to contemplate.

CLINTON AND CHINA

America's tactics are sounder than its strategy

President Clinton's support for the unconditional renewal of most favoured nation (MFN) trading status highlights the difficulties his Administration has had in dealing with China. This issue has proved among his most perplexing foreign problems — and the most time-consuming. US Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his counterpart, Qian Qichen, have met 13 times in the last three years.

Despite all that attention, policy is still neither consistent nor coherent. This week the White House has backed MFN. Last week the Administration prepared the ground for a major trade conflict over China's abuse of copyright provisions. Similarly, a State Department which professes opposition to nuclear proliferation as its highest priority tolerates Chinese shipments of restricted weapons technology to Pakistan, settling for a less than credible pledge that it will not be repeated. US backing for Taiwan during the missile tests in March was also ambiguous for a time.

American action has left outside observers confused. At worst it has given the impression that the world's leading democracy will tolerate Peking abusing citizens, harassing neighbours, and promoting proliferation, but becomes antagonised only over the issue of counterfeit compact discs.

Such an assessment is harsh. The Administration was right to decouple trade and

human rights two years ago and is properly seeking MFN renewal now. The Republican nominee Bob Dole has rejected the short-term advantages of campaign politics and supported that call. The removal of MFN status is a blunderbuss that could never be used effectively as an instrument in US-China relations.

The problem lies less with practice but the strategy behind it. The US is still suffering from two miscalculations made early in the life of the Clinton Administration. The first is that the end of the Cold War had the same impact universally. It did not. The effect in Eastern Europe was far greater than in East Asia. The second was the belief that, with the Cold War's demise, issues of military security were now less important. This led President Clinton first to run a foreign policy based on exporting elections and values and hence to shun Peking. Political reality, not least the menace from North Korea, forced a reassessment. In its wake the White House embraced the exports of aerospace and telecommunications instead, engaging China. This too has proved difficult.

The proper yardstick with which to judge Peking remains security. How China behaves towards those that border it and how it respects international rules should determine the approach of the United States. Mr Christopher has moved slowly to this position. Others need to follow him.

Is Dearing inquiry unrepresentative?

From Lord Dahrendorf, FBA

Sir, The Dearing Committee of Inquiry into Higher Education has been widely, and justly, welcomed. Now that we know its composition, the distinction of its members is evident. Yet one must wonder how a committee in which the experience of two thirds of the academic community — students and teachers of the humanities and social sciences — is nearly absent, can respond to the important part of the remit which states:

Higher education continues to have a role in the nation's social, moral and spiritual life in transmitting citizenship and culture in all its variety; and in enabling personal development for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Yours sincerely,
RALF DAHRENDORF
(Warden),
St Antony's College, Oxford.
May 20.

'Great' Serbia

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, You report today that Biljana Plavsic, Radovan Karadzic's new "iron lady" appointee, is known as Veljko Spokinje the "Great" — not Greater — "Serbian woman". The term "Great Serbia" dates to the turn of this century, when Prime Minister Nikola Pasic used it, in distinction to the Yugoslav idea, which he prophesied would be disastrous. His warnings were ignored by the *entente* leaders, who imposed Yugoslavia.

Serbophobes repeatedly accuse the Serbs of wanting a "Greater Serbia", whereas the Serbs, who had settled for a Yugoslavia in which most Serbs were under one roof, merely demand, if Yugoslavia is to be wound up, a Great Serbia, to avoid misuse by reactionary fundamentalist Islamic Jihadists and the oppressive Roman Catholic Croat regime. They will fight, fight and fight again for this, long after the Americans lose interest in their *pax Americana*, as it becomes a desert, and the EU turns on itself.

Yours sincerely,
ALFRED SHERMAN,
14 Malvern Court,
Onslow Square, SW7.
May 20.

Confirmation denied

From the Honorary Secretary of the Prayer Book Society

Sir, Mrs Angie Golding, who has "walked out" of her church and is holding services in her living room (report, May 11; letter, May 15), alleges that she was denied confirmation unless she participated in a specialised course of lectures (an allegation denied by the church concerned). She might be advised to take her stand on the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer.

These rubrics, though framed with application to children and young people, clearly state that those who are "come to a competent age" and can say the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments, and answer a few simple questions about them, should be presented to the bishop for confirmation.

It is a perversion of Church of England doctrine as set out in the Book of Common Prayer (still the legal norm for worship and doctrine) that allows the clergy to decide on a subjective "if-you-are-fit" basis that certain people are suitable for confirmation and others are not.

It would not surprise one much, these days, to learn that some young people are presented for confirmation on the basis that they can speak in tongues (even if they can't say the Commandments in any of them).

Yours faithfully,
MARGOT THOMPSON,
Honorary Secretary,
The Prayer Book Society,
St James Garlickhythe,
Garlick Hill, EC4.
May 15.

Youth unemployment

From the National Secretary of YMCA England

Sir, We welcome the Labour Party's recognition of the plight of Britain's unemployed youth (reports, May 15, 16; leading article, May 16) but, as a significant provider of training for young people with considerable long-term experience, we do have a number of concerns.

The YMCA provides training for 2,500 young people each year. Around 60 per cent of those we assist have some form of special training needs, but Labour's proposals do not appear to acknowledge the extra costs involved in providing the additional support.

Given the element of compulsion in the proposals and the current lack of funding it is vital that resources are sufficient to provide high-quality training.

The proposals announced on May 15 could provide much needed fresh hope for young people but it is essential that the voluntary sector plays a significant role in the formulation and provision of such schemes.

Yours faithfully,
NICK NIGHTINGALE,
National Secretary,
YMCA England,
3-9 Southampton Row, WCI.
May 16.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

How a new 'Crystal Palace' could affect the South Bank

From Mr James Dunnett

Sir, The proposed South Bank "Crystal Palace" may perhaps turn out to have the lightness that the image in today's *Times* suggests ("Does this cause deserve £170m?", Arts, May 15); but it is surely evident that through bulk alone it will appear to be elbowing the Festival Hall off its own site adjacent.

At the time of the Festival of Britain, the Festival Hall was the only large-scale structure, apart from the slender Shot Tower, between the Hungerford and Waterloo bridges, so it could be seen as properly dominant both from the river and from the north (Waterloo Bridge) side, which was its principal entrance. This effect was seriously compromised by the building alongside it of the Hayward Gallery and Queen Elizabeth Hall (despite the care of their designers), and will be destroyed by the "Crystal Palace".

Rather than spending the proposed large sums on first altering and upgrading, then covering up these later structures, might they not be better rebuilt completely for perhaps comparable sums on the vacant car park site on the upstream of Hungerford Bridge, next to the Thames and Jubilee Gardens?

In this way something like the original setting of the Festival Hall could be recreated, together with the series of civic spaces for which the Festival site was renowned.

Writing in the *Observer* in 1951, Lionel Brett (now Lord Esher) commented that (Sir) Hugh Casson, chief designer of the Festival,

has been able to anchor his deliberately dimly structures to the far rectangle of the Festival Hall, which... has the same inevitable relationship with the Shot Tower as an Italian Romanesque church with its campanile (may they never be divided!).

They soon were; but this contemporary text by someone close to the design process does show the care with which the composition of the South Bank was thought of as a whole, with one major building — the Festival Hall — downstream from Hungerford Bridge, and another — the Dome of Discovery — upstream. This might well serve as a model.

The spaciousness of the interior of the Festival Hall, on whose recreation so much is being spent, was originally matched and complemented by the spaciousness of its setting. But with this the "Crystal Palace" will be in direct conflict.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES DUNNETT,
James Dunnett Architects,
142 Barnsbury Road, N1.
May 15.

From the Chief Executive of the South Bank Centre

Sir, I read with much pleasure your article about the South Bank Centre's plans for the improvement of the Royal Festival Hall, two smaller halls, the Hayward Gallery and their surroundings. It was good to see such clear recognition of the need to bring about this much-needed transformation on the South Bank.

I wish to make two points, however. You ask "who is in charge?" The answer is simple: I am. To support me and my directors in our bid we have one of the best teams in the business, including the Richard Rogers Partnership and a project management team from Ove Arup.

My chairman, Sir Brian Corby (former chairman of the Prudential and president of the CBI), and our board of governors — which includes Elliott Bernard of Chelsfield plc and Alan Smith, chairman designate of Storehouse — are wholly committed to sound financial management. None of them would tolerate anything less than an efficiently run project, built to time and budget.

You talk about the possible benefits of "a more gradual approach" to the building programme. While this may appear to be a superficially attractive option, the interconnected nature of the buildings and their services makes it largely impractical. Not only that; any delay will only lead to increases in our costs — inflation for construction projects is notoriously high.

As you so cogently point out, the need to humanise the South Bank is clear and urgent. We have worked hard to ensure that our proposals and our bid reflect the needs of both artists and audiences. The only thing which will damage this project now is unnecessary delay.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS SNOWMAN,
Chief Executive,
South Bank Centre,
Festival Hall,
Belvedere Road, SE1.
May 16.

Ethical decisions on IVF treatment

From Dr Margaret Puxon, QC, FRCOG

Sir, The co-founder of Comment on Reproductive Ethics (letter, May 18) asserts that it must be obvious "that ethical decisions regarding IVF treatment cannot be made by the practitioners of IVF or their puppet ethics committees". May I state here emphatically that this committee is the puppet of no one nor of any body, and we find the imputation as insulting as it is inaccurate.

Having laid down guidelines for the unit as to the type of case we wish to have referred to us (this includes all cases where HIV is a factor), and having full details of the background of the potential parents, we consider each case on its individual merits.

While we often ask for further information from the unit, and may seek outside expert scientific advice, we reach our conclusions in private session without any pressure from the practitioners, taking into account the provisions of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act and the code of practice drawn up by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority as set out by its Chairman (letter, May 18).

We then advise the unit of our views on the ethics of the proposed treatment: we believe this is welcomed and followed by the unit who would, I believe, be as offended as we are by the suggestion that they interfere with our deliberations.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET PUXON
(Chairman, Ethics Committee),
In Vitro Fertilisation Unit,
Lister Hospital,
Chelsea Bridge Road, SW1.
May 19.

lieve, be as offended as we are by the suggestion that they interfere with our deliberations.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET PUXON
(Chairman, Ethics Committee),
In Vitro Fertilisation Unit,
Lister Hospital,
Chelsea Bridge Road, SW1.
May 19.

From Mrs Christina Dykes

Sir, I sympathise with the plight of "Sheila" which was eloquently portrayed by Professor Lord Winston (article, May 14), but my reactions are mixed.

Whereas Sheila may crave a child, it is right that we should ask whether this is reasonable. Resources for this type of care are limited, and any future child of hers could face its life being jeopardised by its own ill health, as your leader points out so vehemently today, as well as that of its mother's.

I have great sympathy for Sheila's plight, but there are more ways to help her than by putting her wishes before the wellbeing of an unborn child.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINA DYKES,
49 Kings Road,
Richmond, Surrey.
May 15.

Saints of all sorts

From Mr Brian North Lee

Sir, Regardless of the Savonarola issue (letters, May 14), there are saints and Saints. The latter are the officially canonised, of which there are far more than most people have any inkling. The former term can apply to the faithful at large, but more specifically those of acknowledged holiness.

Let not the Church, which is cannily selective, forget this. Like popular history, it has a tendency to "provide" saints in specific areas. Florence Nightingale was no saint, but has rightly or wrongly come to be seen as the icon of nursing.

The Church pursues icon status in just the same way, geographically and vocationally. This does not alter the fact that the heroes and heroines of the faith often go unrecognised other than

locally or at best nationally. They would not expect canonisation, it being the nature of the holy not to see themselves for what they are, but I'm sure they are invoked for prayer for those who know them to be God's special friends.

The pursuance of "causes" by the Roman Catholic Church, and the need for miracles, seem puerile when one has seen holiness exemplified in a life. In the Anglican Church, which does not canonise, Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln from 1885 to 1910, is an instance. People saw and knew what he was, which is why he is commemorated to this day with a special collect, epistle and Gospel on March 8, the anniversary of his death in 1910.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN NORTH LEE,
32 Barrowgate Road, Chiswick, W4.
May 15.

Olympic flames

From Mr R. J. M. Tolhurst

Sir, The 1936 ("Nazi") Olympic Games, for which the Olympic flame was introduced (report, May 9; also letters, May 15), were not "hastily moved by the Spanish Civil War from Barcelona to Berlin". They were awarded to Berlin by the International Olympic Committee in 1931, ie, some five years before the Spanish Civil War began, and almost two years before the Nazis came to power in Germany.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. M. TOLHURST,
Flat 52, The Vineyards,
Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex.
May 15.

Art restoration

From Mr Adrian Ryan

Sir, For 50 years I have been noticing how restorers (letter, May 16) have managed so often to improve and embellish my pictures. God bless them.

Yours etc,
A. RYAN,
8 Camden Studios, NW1.
May 17.

Hymns and anthems

From Mr Christopher Enston

Sir, If Canon Donald Gray believes that Jerusalem's "dark satanic mills" represent the Church's neglect of inner cities (report, May 17), why does he not attempt to tackle the problem in a more practical fashion, rather than sweep it aside by his petty objections to Blake's stirring words and Parry's noble music? We continue to sing Jerusalem with vigour at Ellesmere College.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER ENSTON
(Assistant Director of Music),
Ellesmere College,
Ellesmere, Shropshire.
May 18.

From Mr Dugald M. MacInnes

Sir, Might it not be timely for the English RFU to adopt Jerusalem as its official anthem to replace the UK national anthem, which heretofore they have appropriated to themselves. All nations would then have their particular anthem and it would ensure the continuing lusty rendition of Jerusalem, even if it is left out of future hymnals.

Yours faithfully,
DUGALD M. MACINNES,
231 Stephendale Road, SW6.
May 17.

Without his cloak

From Mr Hugh Mooney

Sir, Sir Howard Smith (obituary, May 9) did partly succeed in publicising his appointment as Director-General of the Security Service (MIS). To the consternation of the intelligence and diplomatic community he insisted on telling the Russians before he quit his post as Ambassador to Moscow in 1978, where he had previously served (1961-63) as Head of Chancery.

Something of an outsider, with a reputation for toughness on intelligence and propaganda operations, he was an inspired choice for Northern Ireland in 1971 and was the last and longest-serving United Kingdom government representative there. Though the main reference books agree with your obituarist that Sir Howard became a Deputy Secretary at the Cabinet Office in 1972, they are silent on the fact that he continued to act as UK Representative in Northern Ireland, resident at Laneside, Hollywood, until 1974.

He saw the first power-sharing Assembly, set up under the Sunningdale agreement, take its first faltering steps, only to be pulled down by the loyalist strike of May that year.

Sir Howard made a major contribution to that earlier peace process, as others better qualified than me, an admiring former member of his staff, may testify.

Incidentally, you aged Sir Howard by ten years. He was 76.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH MOONEY,
1 Anchor Cottage, Prickwillow Road,
Isleham, Cambridgeshire.
May 10.

Please hold...

From Mrs Marigold Freeman-Attwood

Sir, Mr Alexander Murray (letter, May 13; see also letter, May 16) rightly deplores the telephonic queuing system which many firms now operate.

Mr William Gladstone reputedly read the whole of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* while waiting each day for Mrs Gladstone to put on her hat. Might not Mr Murray (albeit within earshot of the inevitable Muzak) adopt some similar procedure to soothe his frustration as those expensive minutes tick by?

Yours faithfully,
MARIGOLD FREEMAN-ATTWOOD.

West Flexford, Wanborough,
Nr Guildford, Surrey.
May 20.

From Mr John du Bois

Sir, I, too, am infuriated by enforced telephone queuing, often accompanied by unwelcome music. If we must suffer the latter, why not answer me or As time goes by?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN DU BOIS,
3 The Old Slipway,
River Road, Arundel, West Sussex.
May 18.

All to pot

From Mr Trevor Wilkinson

Sir, It's that time of the year, and once again the gentle lanes of Chelsea are under siege from the gardening gnomes. In their own way, they are living proof of what physicists call chaos.

And it's not just the traffic they bring chaos to either: it must be obvious by now — even to these hardy souls — that they also bring with them extremely unsettled weather.

Yours sincerely,
TREVOR WILKINSON,
1 Cranbourne Court,
Albert Bridge Road, SW11.
May 21.

The mysterious decline of ITV

W as it only three years ago that the BBC's Director-General warned the corporation to brace itself for a drop towards a one-third share of the audience by the end of the decade? The warning was absolutely right. Only the name of the organisation was wrong.

It is ITV which is seeing its audience slowly eroded by satellite television. Figures released this week by the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising (IPA) show ITV's share of all viewing (that is terrestrial plus satellite) fell to 36.5 per cent for the first quarter of the year. A year ago, ITV garnered 38 per cent of all viewers during the same four months. Three years ago it held 40.9 per cent.

The BBC, on the other hand, is emerging virtually unscathed. BBC1 stands at 32.8 per cent, while BBC2 is triumphantly gaining viewers, now attracting an 11 per cent share, slightly ahead of Channel 4. Together the two BBC services command 43.8 per cent of the total. The main growth, all the same, is accounted for by satellite television (most of it provided by BSkyB, partly owned by the owners of *The Times*). Its share of the audience has climbed from 5.3 per cent in 1993 to 9.3 per cent.

The message is clear. Satellite's gain has been almost entirely at ITV's expense. Armchair sociologists, therefore, will quickly conclude that ITV serves downmarket viewers, while the BBC's more upmarket audience would sooner buy a gnome for the garden than a dish for the roof. They will be wrong. Age, not class, is the main explanation. Although in its early days satellite television may have merited its "council house" label, its subscriber profile now resembles that of the population at large — except for having more children. Families with children are most likely to sign up for satellite television. The under-16s, according to the IPA's demographics, are the heaviest viewers among all age groups of the non-terrestrial channels.

This statistic is doubly sad for ITV, which has been labouring, with some success, to shed its elderly profile. If the newest viewers desert it, however, its rejuvenation will not last. ITV's most loyal audience, figures show, are the oldest and poorest: not the ideal target for advertisers.

Regaining lost charm is never an easy exercise and ITV Network Centre now must try, against the knowledge that a new competitor for viewers and advertisers is in the wings. Channel 5 starts up in January.

Not before time, ITV has begun polishing up its brand image and to market itself as "ITV3 — Britain's Most Popular Button". This claim is not misleading. The current slippage in decimal points which gives ITV executives nightmares nonetheless leaves

ITV as the most-watched channel and its *Coronation Street* top of the charts with 16 million viewers two or three times a week. And it hopes to remedy its weaknesses. Its new sports contracts — notably Formula One racing and European Cup football — may help to calm advertisers.

But ITV is suffering from a structural weakness which, were it a living creature, would be called genetic. It is a federation of regional companies, who come together as a network for only part of the day. The rest of the airtime is filled by the regional companies with their own choice of programmes, not always of the best and brightest.

You have to feel a bit sorry for ITV's Network Centre, which has the task of designing ITV's peak-time schedules. It soldiers under two heavy and contradictory orders: to deliver mass audiences in the main evening hours, while at the same time meeting statutory public service obligations for programmes which can easily drive the masses away. For example, ITV

was justly praised by its regulator, the Independent Television Commission, for the strength of its children's programmes, yet chided for not providing as much children's drama as promised. Yet if ITV really wanted to woo the kiddie audience, it could easily do so by showing non-stop cartoons. But this option is out of bounds on the heavily regulated terrestrial services.

But if demographics count, so too does flair. ITV, supposedly the home of good drama, still has six out of the top ten, led by *Peak Practice*. Yet in the new season started last autumn, it launched eight new peak-time shows, without (according to William Phillips of *Broadcast*) achieving one hit. In contrast, the BBC is basking in the success of such as *Ballyhoo*, *Silent Witness*, *Hamish Macbeth* and *Hetty Wainthropp Investigates*.

Some attribute the BBC's resurgence in drama to the arrival at the BBC three years ago this month of Charles Denton from independent production. He spent most of his first weeks saying that the pipeline for television drama is a long one, and that the results of any innovation of his would not be seen for several years.

The three years are up. The results are in. But Denton has cleared off. Departed from the BBC, too, is Nick Elliott, who was recruited from London Weekend Television, where he was drama king. He is now at ITV Network Centre, and if Denton's theory is right, ITV can expect its knack with drama to return.

Sadly for ITV, it will never be able to match the BBC's trump card: having two channels to play with, able to be worthy and populist at the same time.



BRENDA MADDOX

Two little piggies go to market

THE battle of the pigs arrives in Britain soon, hammed up at a video store near you.

Babe, the phenomenally successful talking porker flick, is released on video in Britain in July by MCA/Universal, which claims it will become the bestselling non-Disney video of all time, selling more than ten million copies in the United States alone.

In a cynical spoiling operation, however, Disney has delved into its archive to find a talking-pig film of its own. Curiously, the film in question, *Gordy*, has been given a new cover almost identical to *Babe*'s.

Gordy has more street cred than *Babe*, says a spokeswoman for Disney distributors Buena Vista. "He wears a bandana and sunglasses, he's a snapper dresser, he swims and he likes country and western. He is the coolest talking pig around."

Over at MCA/Universal, executives were sniffling. "Let's just say you won't get a squeal out of *Babe*," one said.

IN what could be one of the most spectacular examples of the poacher turning gamekeeper, Sir Nicholas Lloyd, former Editor of the *Daily Express*, is considering entering the wonderful world of public relations as a "media consultant".

Intermediaries acting on Sir Nick's behalf have approached a number of leading PR outfits to see if they could accommodate him. So far, there have been no takers, raising the possibility that he may have to set up in business on his own.

"He would probably be quite valuable to a PR company that doesn't know Fleet Street editors," comments one industry insider.

Lip service

ANDREW MARR, the new Editor of *The Independent*, could tell he had secured the approval of his leader, David



Gordy versus Babe: the battle of the talking porkers is about to be joined between MCA/Universal and Disney

Montgomery, to change his newspaper's famous eagle masthead thanks to his newfound mastery of the "disappearing lips test". In dissenting mode, it seems, Monty has a way of pursing his lips that makes them disappear altogether. Acquisitiveness is indicated by a show



David Montgomery: pout

of lips. News that Marr wanted to alter the masthead was greeted with only the faintest signs of a Montgomery pout. This was praise, indeed.

Meanwhile, some staff at *The Independent* appear to be having difficulty accepting Marr's elevated status. Not only was it the last paper to report his appointment to the editorship when it was first announced, but the day after he had taken over last week it was still listing Charlie Wilson as Editor. The following day, it listed no editor at all.

MAX HASTINGS's arrival as editor of the *London Evening Standard* in January has led to an unexpected boom at Kensington public library, situated just yards from the paper's offices. Copies of his *august books on military history appear to be out on indefinite loan, thanks to the enthusiasm of the paper's more ambitious hacks, keen to ingratiate themselves with their leader.*

Lover's tiff

WHATEVER prompted Lord Hanson's intemperate attack on the British press and the poor standards in journalism in the current edition of *The Spectator*? Are we really living in an age of cynicism, fuelled by an all-pervasive "destructive" and "self-satisfied" journalism, and blind to the economic miracle wrought by the Tories? Or could it be that he is getting fed up with the tabloid's intonation with the love life of his extremely eligible son, Robert?

Hello, there

GOOD news for fans of luvviesome gush. Word is that the celebrity magazine *Hello!* is in talks with television producers about the creation of a screen version. Red Door, a new independent production company, is working with Carlton television on a formula to get the *Hello!*

inspired magazine show on our screens.

Over at *Hello!*, however, the normally effusive staff remain surprisingly coy. "We've been approached by a great many television companies about putting our name to a television show, but to date we haven't acted on them," a spokeswoman said. "Which doesn't mean we won't stop and think this is the time to do it," she added mysteriously.

"Artists" could be in for a difficult time if the latest rumour in the world of television is anything to go by. Feverish whispers around White City, the South Bank and Westminster have it that a meeting took place last week with far-reaching consequences for all. The rumoured delegates? Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, Marcus Plantin, director of



Cynthia Payne: "No smut"

the *ITV Network Centre*, and Alan Yentob, Controller of BBC1. The subject? Keeping artists' payments down.

Word has it that the three executives may try to come to some agreement to make sure payments to our on-screen stars don't rocket sky high. We watch and wait...

Off the shelf

CYNTHIA PAYNE, the former madam immortalised for her "entertainment" of establishment gentlemen, is in trouble again. Not with the law this time. Not with WH Smith, that worthy high street retailer. It has apparently banned Ms Payne's new video, *House of Cyn*, from its stores.

The film, produced by David Wilkinson with a BBC film crew, follows Ms Payne as she visits the houses where she used to, cough, entertain, and purports to be the true story of her life. "It really isn't smut at all, it's just terribly funny," she says. "A lot of original people are in the film, although because most of my girls are now grandmothers we had to hire actresses to play them."

WH Smith insists that the video was refused because it was not considered a potential commercial success. Wilkinson maintains, however, that Smith's specifically told him it was "too distasteful" for its shelves. Surely not...

ON Saturday last week, *The Times* proclaimed that it was enjoying "its greatest success this century". It is a bold claim that is vindicated by the story of the past three years.

When *The Times* decided to cut its price from 45p to 30p in September 1993, sales of the four main broadsheet national papers had fallen by 68,000 in a year and the strategy was derided throughout Fleet Street. Yet reducing the price of *The Times* has proved to be one of the most successful marketing tactics in newspaper history.

Thousands of new readers were encouraged to buy it on trial. They discovered that it

'Newspaper success of the century'

was not the stuffy paper they had imagined. They enjoyed what they read and thousands decided to buy the paper regularly. Over a year 90 million more copies of *The Times* are now being sold and sales of the four main broadsheets are up by 276,000.

Sales of *The Times* in August 1993 were 354,000 a day. Sales last month were 654,000, an increase of 300,000 copies a

READERSHIP: 25-44-YEAR-OLDS



day. Against that 85 per cent increase, sales of *The Daily Telegraph* are up by 0.5 per cent. A gap of nearly 700,000 between the two papers has been reduced to less than 400,000. *The Daily Telegraph*

circulation is also inflated by "bulk sales", newspapers given away by hotels, airlines or DIY stores, which were 35,000 last month. At the full price, it sold 998,000 and fell below a million. As *The Times* has achieved increased readership — measured by the number who read each copy — of 400,000, readership of *The Daily Telegraph* has fallen by more than 250,000 and the number of readers per copy

has declined even more sharply. Meanwhile, the share of the quality market (excluding the *FT*) claimed by *The Times* has risen by 9 percentage points (65 per cent) against a 3 percentage points drop (down 6 per cent) for *The Daily Telegraph*.

Yet the most significant index of a newspaper's health and future is the number of its young readers. With 631,000 reading an average issue this year, *The Times* has overtaken *The Daily Telegraph* as the newspaper read by affluent ABC1 25-44-year-olds so coveted by advertisers.

BRIAN MACARTHUR

POLICE officers have threatened to start charging journalists for information to counter plans by national newspapers to charge them for copying press cuttings.

The Newspaper Licensing Agency (NLA) intends to charge colleges, schools, press offices and businesses up to 2p a copy for the right to reproduce cuttings from participating newspapers. The potential revenue has been estimated at between £3.2 and £6.4 million a year.

However, the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) is refusing to pay "as a matter of principle". It says the cost could force it to place price

Police in copyright dispute

tags on interviews with police officers and press conferences. "There is a strong issue at stake," says John Deal, Acpo spokesman. "It is ludicrous that we have to pay every time we copy an article, the information for which has often been provided by us."

Andrew Hughes, chief executive of the NLA, says he understands that the police

feel they have a different role to play compared with private organisations. "However, there is rather more to producing a newspaper than the services of PRs and police officers," he says.

Legal action is a possible option to resolve the dispute. "We think there are certain elements of the copyright laws which have not been tested in court," Mr Deal says.

But Mr Hughes adds: "I hope that the police will think carefully about the consequences of operating a copying service without consulting the copyright owners."

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Key players kept on the sidelines

Parliamentary private secretary Peter Atkinson explains why he is opposed to the Government's Broadcasting Bill

THE Broadcasting Bill should provide a great opportunity for the UK to be a leader in one of the great developing enterprises of the next century, the media revolution. But will it?

All the ingredients are there: skill, talent, money and above all, the English language. But there is a danger of failure because of one significant problem: government's reluctance to relinquish its remaining controls on the industry.

Even a Conservative Government with a commitment to free markets and deregulation is finding it hard to let go of the reins which prevent broadcasters and newspaper publishers from entering a truly free market which will be the making of this new world.

The reasons for this are complex. Much of it is to do with history and the uneasy relationship which politicians and journalists have. We need them, they need us. Politicians give journalists special privileges, lobby passes and unattributable briefings. We wine and dine each other but a deep-seated mistrust persists.

Historically newspapers have escaped the net of government restriction (apart from in times of war) but broadcasting has not. For the convenient reason that wavelengths are limited. This has enabled governments to "nationalise" the means of distribution, raise money from it (licence fees, commercial TV and radio tenders) and bully it over programme content.

And hard luck if you run a "listed" sporting event. You cannot



The future of information and entertainment provision lies on screen. But unless it allows industry leaders to take part, can Britain ever hope to lead the revolution?

sell your own copyright to the highest bidder if you so wish. You have to sell it as best you can to a free-to-air service.

The Broadcasting Bill was drafted in the face of inevitable change. Space in the air is no longer limited. Cable passes millions of front doors, satellite rains down upon us and digital technology will increase the capacity of all delivery systems enormously.

Tomorrow's world will belong to the screen, yet the Bill contains restrictions on newspaper publishers from ownership of terrestrial radio and Channel 5 (ITV) stations, whether they are transmitted via digital or analogue systems.

Does it matter? Yes it does, both on the grounds of principle and in fact. The Bill seeks to prevent national newspapers with more than 20 per cent of the UK

newspaper market from owning more than 20 per cent of any radio or Channel 5 company. Regional newspapers with more than 20 per cent of the local market will face similar prohibitions.

This will mean that the Mirror Group (Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror, The People and a share of The Independent) and News International (The Sun, News of the World, The Sunday Times and The

Times) are excluded, along with many successful regional papers which control more than 20 per cent of their market.

On principle this is wrong. Success should be rewarded, not punished. On principle, News International and Rupert Murdoch are entitled to better treatment from a Conservative Government.

In every respect, Mr Murdoch should be a Tory hero. He revived a

failing Sun (formerly the trade union-owned Daily Herald). He took on the print unions which were destroying the newspaper industry in a sophisticated operation which still astounds those who knew about it.

He cut cover prices, increased content and boosted the fortunes of all other newspaper publishers who rode on the back of his efforts. There would be no Independent

and possibly no Times if it was not for him.

The millions of pounds he invested in satellite TV established the medium in this country. The access systems and the billing systems have allowed other, independent, channels to start broadcasting.

Our regional newspapers deserve a better deal too. My own local newspaper group, Newcastle Chronicle and Journal, publishers of an evening newspaper, a morning and a Sunday, faces real threats and real opportunities from the communication revolution.

The company invests many millions of pounds a year in journalism, which remains the bedrock of successful newspapers. Faced with an erosion of the printed word, it might well wish — indeed need — to expand its journalism into broadcasting. But it cannot under the Bill.

In amendments to the Bill, we have sought a simple compromise: that newspapers which seek to move into broadcasting should be treated individually. A public interest test should be applied in every case. There should be no automatic prohibitions.

The real debate on this issue has been obscured by an historical political mistrust of press barons, by criticisms of the political stance of newspapers ("It was The Sun Who Won It") and by the manoeuvring of some senior newspaper industry figures who would like nothing better than to have a clear run at expansion into television without two strong players in the field.

Those who fear Mr Murdoch are worrying themselves unnecessarily. For the Bill contains yet another prohibition. Channel 5 licences cannot be held by companies controlled from outside the European Union. Goodbye Mr Murdoch. Goodbye Mr Black and the Telegraph.

Hello, Berlusconi. Hello, Bertelsmann.

● The author is MP for Hexham.

Alex Benady on a new place for the elderly in advertising

WITH an average age of 51, Bartle Bogle Hegarty, once the golden-haired boys of British advertising, are rapidly turning into its silver-haired men. But the fact that BBH are past their prime (along with many others in the supposedly youthful advertising industry), has absolutely nothing to do with a recent spate of ads for well-known brands featuring old people.

The latest is BBH's campaign for Levis Red Tab jeans, due to appear in the August edition of the style press. The ads fly in the face of fashion orthodoxy by using as models wrinklies aged between 60 and 86, complete with leathery complexions, sagging jowls and wispy grey hair.

The campaign forms part of Levis' £8 million marketing budget earmarked for the United Kingdom this year, but the ads are not about the

The old, old story by Levi

glories of old age. Gwyn Jones, 29, the account director, says: "Levi's strategy is to present itself as the original and authentic jeans. These ads show the original people who wore the clothes and are really about the 145-year heritage of the brand."

The decision to use old people was made by the art director Steve Hudson, 30, and copywriter Victoria Fallon, 29. "Levi's is an old brand. We thought it would be interesting to see who wore them right from the start," says Fallon.

The campaign has been welcomed as a breath of fresh air. "It is fantastic to see old

people being treated in such an unстереotypical way," says Steve Henry, 41, creative partner at Howell Henry Chaldecott Lury.

Gary Duckworth, 41, the chairman of Duckworth Finn Grubb Waters, says that the campaign is the start of a re-evaluation of the way advertising portrays old people. "With an ageing and affluent population, more ads with favourable portrayals of the old are inevitable," he says.

□ Airbus consumer campaign: advertising for aeroplanes is usually dreary, involving the odd page in business-to-business titles

such as The Pilot and Aeronautical Engineer. Euro RSCG Wnek Gosper is set to change all that after a £10 million commission from Airbus Industrie.

Airbus is locked in battle with the American manufacturer Boeing and wants its new agency to prepare a worldwide television and press campaign targeting consumers for the first time.

The industry response has been to point out that ordinary people can't buy long-haul jets, so why bother? But there is sound logic behind Airbus's plan, says Brett Gosper, the chief executive of Euro RSCG Wnek Gosper.

"Airlines do extensive consumer research on the quality of aircraft. One aim of this campaign will be to influence perceptions of the quality of Airbus planes which will then feed back to airline buyers," Gosper says. The campaign breaks in August.

Howard nudges ahead on the front pages

With the paperback of *Enigma*, his second novel, riding high in the bestseller lists, Robert Harris has been lured back to *The Sunday Times*, where he is writing about politics in the run-up to the general election. It is the best hiring by the paper since he left four years ago.

On Sunday, Harris argued that we should ignore the bores and pedants who said that British political journalism concentrated too much on personalities and not enough on policy. Suetonius got it right nearly 2,000 years ago. Ambition, vanity, power for the sake of power, conquest for the sake of conquest were the very stuff of politics.

Harris was discussing the "poisonous gavel" at the top of the Labour Party. Yet his argument applies equally to the gavel at the top of the Conservative Party and especially to the early manoeuvring for the succession to John Major — in which two powerful contenders will be Michael Howard and Kenneth Clarke.

They are politicians with utterly different personalities, one bluff and blunt, the other subtle and insinuating, and Fleet Street is following the early skirmishes with fascination. Judged by the verdict of the Tory press last week, shares in Howard were rising as those in Clarke fell.

None of the potential contenders pays quite such assiduous attention to their relationship with newspapers as Mr Howard. He courts editors, leader writers, political correspondents and specialist home affairs reporters and has in Patrick Rock a spin-doctor whom lobby correspondents describe as the best political adviser in Whitehall.

Some editors are approached by Howard directly so that his message goes straight to the top. Leader writers are told that he will be



PAPER ROUND Brian MacArthur

happy to talk to them — and at their convenience. As a good lawyer, they find Howard difficult to argue with, yet unfailingly courteous even if they disagree with him.

It all helps to give Howard a more sympathetic press, especially where it matters most — in winning editorial support from the increasingly Euro-sceptic Tory press. Nor does it do him cause any harm that he is so reviled by *The Guardian*, *The Observer* and the *Daily Mirror*, for it is his opposition to the views of *Guardian* readers that makes him so appealing to *The Sun*, *Daily Mail* and *The Daily Telegraph*.

As *The Observer* asks: "Is this man the worst Home Secretary ever?" and gets the answer from four establishment liberals that he certainly is, or *The Guardian*

describes him as "a man with no shame", so *The Sun* says that it's the law that's wrong, not Michael Howard. Both Howard and Clarke made speeches last Friday on Europe. Clarke made a powerful attack on Euro-sceptics and derided the idea that Britain should become a Switzerland with nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, Howard attacked the European Court of Justice and raised the prospect of Britain "repatriating" to Parliament some powers exercised by Brussels — and it was he who won the battle of the Saturday headlines.

"Howard attacks Europe tyrants", said *The Daily Telegraph*. "Howard splits Cabinet on Europe", replied *The Independent*. At the *Daily Mail*, they were comparing and contrasting. Once again.

Clarke had shown his willingness to sacrifice the unity of his party on the altar of his obsessions over Europe, the paper argued; how refreshing that Mr Howard had emphasised that Britain had signed up to an outward-looking free trading community of national states — not to a federal adventure.

At *The Daily Telegraph*, Mr Howard had at a stroke moved ahead of his colleagues and made them look out of touch. He had thrown down his glove for a leadership contest and in the wake of an election defeat could present himself as that most attractive of figures to Tory MPs: an effective Euro-sceptic loyalist.

As *The Observer* gave Howard a kicking last Sunday, so Andrew Neil was putting the boot into Clarke in *The Sunday Times*, accusing him of leading the Tories to oblivion. There was some consolation for Clarke, however. He was able to reiterate his argument for Europe in Britain's biggest-selling newspaper, the *News of the World* (sale 4.5 million).



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Dundee	210	62	203	62	Oban	822	3	971	9.5
Dublin (N. West)	140	38	243	35	Perthshire	724	49	1742	49
Falmouth	754	3	817	4	Portland	916	16	2118	16
Greenock	204	34	343	30	Portsmouth	147	44	2230	43
Harwich	323	37	236	37	Southam	140	56	2100	56
Holyhead	948	32	115	49	Stroud	118	42	1952	41
Ilk (Alford D.)	851	67	923	63	Swansea	901	84	1912	84
Ilfracombe	846	82	829	62	Tees	622	49	956	46
King's Lynn	854	60	921	60	Widnes-on-Naze	218	39	2229	39

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First quarter, May 26

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY MAY 22 1996



Dr Keith McCullagh, right, a founder and chief executive of Biotech, with James Noble, finance director, at the company's offices in Oxford

Cancer drug hopes fuel boom in Biotech shares

By ERIC REGULY

SHARES in British Biotech rose to a record high yesterday, valuing the company at about £1.9 billion, after it reported positive clinical results from Marimastat, its promising cancer treatment. The shares closed at £33.15, up 28.5p, after climbing 18.5p on Monday. Volume was two million shares. At one point, the shares went as high as £38.88. British Biotech's stock market value is now comparable to Railtrack, Dixons, Storehouse, Thames Water and Euro Disney. When the company floated at 42.5p in 1992, it was worth only £150 million and appeared to have little chance of survival. Marimastat is designed to slow the spread of "hard" tumours generated by a broad range of cancers, including

lung, pancreatic, ovarian, prostate and colorectal cancers. It works by blocking hostile enzymes, MMPs, that spew from malignant tumours to create secondary tumours. Patients who respond to the treatment — it was effective in some 50 per cent of cases — live longer and more comfortably. However, the drug does not actually kill the cancer and is ineffective against blood cancers such as leukaemia. Success in the so-called phase 2 trials means that Marimastat can proceed to phase 3, the final stage of testing. Historically, a drug that enters phase 3 trials has a better than 60 per cent chance of a commercial launch. James Noble, finance director, said that phase 3 trials, which will compare Marima-

stat's effectiveness against other treatments, are to begin immediately and will last about two years. The first trial will test the drug's effectiveness against pancreatic cancer in some 300 patients. If the trials are a success, the drug could launch commercially in 1999. Marimastat has patent protection until 2013. Some analysts think that the drug has enormous sales potential because it can treat so many kinds of cancers. The company estimates that, at any one time, there are between five million and seven million cancer patients in America and Europe that might benefit. By comparison, Lexipant, another cancer drug being developed by British Biotech, may benefit only about

250,000 patients. Lexipant, designed to treat acute pancreatitis, is in phase 3 trials and probably will come to market in 1998, making it the company's first commercial product. British Biotech estimates that the soaring share price has made millionaires of 15 to 20 of its 350 employees. All most employees were given options last November to buy shares at £8.32 apiece. The profit on each option today would be about £25. Keith McCullagh, one of the founders who is now chief executive, has seen his basic stake rise to £27.2 million from just £3.3 million in February 1995. Mr Noble's stake is valued at about £7 million. British Biotech was founded in 1986. In 1989, it persuaded British institutions to pump

£23 million into the company to fund its cancer research. Three years later, it threatened to move to America after the Stock Exchange refused to list its shares because there were no profits in sight. British Biotech, which has no income, will have to tap shareholders within 18 months to fund the development of Marimastat and other drugs. It has £70 million, which is being used at a rate of £3 million a month. Analysts estimate that a rights issue would dilute investors' holdings by 5 to 10 per cent. Since its flotation, it has raised about £91 million through rights issues and the exercise of warrants. Pennington, page 27
Market report, page 28

M&S to create 1,000 jobs as profit nears £1bn

By SARAH BAGNALL

MARKS & SPENCER, Britain's biggest retailer, yesterday announced a better than expected rise in profits, to nearly £1 billion, and disclosed plans to create more than 1,000 jobs in the current year. About 40,000 M&S staff will share in a £20 million share windfall, receiving amounts equal to 5 per cent of their salary, under M&S's profit-sharing scheme. Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman, said that there were indications of recovery in consumer confidence. "There is every sign that the customer is coming out of the trenches," he said. "Not a boom, but it is looking much better."

The chairman added: "With signs of improving consumer confidence in the UK, we are well placed to benefit from a sustained revival." Current sales growth was "very good," he said. M&S outstripped the most optimistic analyst forecasts with a 67 million rise in pre-tax profits from continuing operations, to £994 million, in the year to March 31. There was a 6.3 per cent rise in sales, to £7.2 billion. The shares rose 29.5p to 462p. Profits were helped by a marked upturn in the American businesses — Brooks Brothers and Kings Super markets — and a 64 per cent leap in net interest income, to £55.2 million. Profits would have been the £1 billion barrier if M&S had not had to fund a shortfall in its pension fund, which cost £18.1 million, and had not suffered a £25 million loss on the sale of the D'Almeida business in Canada. M&S created 1,500 jobs last year, mainly to improve service in the non-food part of its UK business. Sir Richard said: "We are in an increasingly service-orientated retail climate and people are prepared to pay more, up to a point." The group intends to create more than 1,000 jobs in the current year as it opens new

stores and continues its programme of store extensions and refurbishments. In the UK, M&S plans to open two new stores and to refurbish 14. Last year, three new stores lifted the total to 285, and there were 12 store extensions. The extensions and new stores helped the group to lift UK operating profits by 4.5 per cent, to £885.4 million. The performance was in spite of the extra pension fund cost and the need to mark down £90 million of unsold clothing stock hanging over from last autumn, when UK retailers suffered from unseasonably warm weather. However, Sir Richard said: "We traded well throughout the rest of the year and therefore retained our market share and margins." All UK trading divisions reported improved performances, with clothing, footwear and gifts notching up a 3.9 per cent sales advance, home furnishings an 8.4 per cent rise and food a 5.4 per cent increase. M&S's overseas businesses, which, together with franchises, account for 17 per cent of total sales, suffered mixed fortunes. In continental Europe, results were hit by poor economic conditions and social unrest in France last year. Better news emerged from the US, where Brooks Brothers lifted profits by 81.4 per cent, to £10.7 million, reflecting benefits of management changes. Referring to the improved performance, Sir Richard said: "Retailing is a marathon, not a sprint, and we still have a long way to go." Financial services lifted profits by 25.6 per cent, to £61.4 million. The final dividend rises to 8.4p, making a total for the year of 11.4p, up from 10.3p last time. The dividend, due on August 2, is payable from earnings per share of 23.3p, up from 22.4p. Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FT-SE 100	3789.4 (+11.2)
Yield	3.97%
FT-SE All share	1903.36 (+4.89)
Nikkei	22091.74 (+112.74)
Dow Jones	5742.17 (-6.65)
S&P Composite	674.03 (+0.88)
US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/4% (5 1/4%)
Long Bond	85 1/8% (85 1/8%)
Yield	6.83% (6.83%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	6 1/4% (6 1/4%)
Life long gilt	106 1/8% (106 1/8%)
STERLING	
New York	1.5118* (1.5145)
London	1.5136 (1.5122)
DM	2.3321 (2.3307)
FF	7.8854 (7.8824)
Sfr	1.9163 (1.9095)
Yen	162.04 (161.97)
S Index	84.8 (84.5)
DOLLAR	
London	1.5410* (1.5340)
DM	6.2190* (6.1977)
FF	1.5670* (1.5620)
Yen	106.58* (107.10)
S Index	97.2 (97.2)
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$18.00 (\$18.15)
GOLD	
London close	\$390.05 (\$391.25)

DTI asks court to demolish 'pyramid'

By ROBERT MILLER

IAN LANG, the President of the Board of Trade, has moved to close down the UK arm of a German-based organisation running a money-making scheme described in Parliament as "an iniquitous scam". Lawyers for the Department of Trade and Industry yesterday appeared before Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor of the Chancery Division, in the High Court to petition for a provisional liquidator to be appointed to three companies. The DTI described the scheme run by Titan Business Club, Titan Marketing Gesellschaft, which is based in Hamburg, and SHV Senator Hanseatische Verwaltungsgesellschaft mbH, as "an illegal lottery". John McDonnell, QC, for Titan, said the German courts had found the operation to be legal. He added it would be "quite wrong" for the English courts to believe that they had any jurisdiction to entertain the DTI petition. The Titan operation was raised in Parliament last month by David Rendel, Liberal Democrat MP for Newbury, who described the scheme as a "highly secretive pyramid selling scam". He said: "The scheme appears to be very simple. Each participant pay £2,500 for the dubious privilege of joining the club. He or she is then expected to encourage other people to join by bringing them along to an evening meeting at which the scheme is explained, along with much clapping and ritual chanting." The hearing was adjourned until today. Pennington, page 27

Big brokers to retain tax benefits

By PATRICIA TEHAN

THE Treasury is understood to have approved Stock Exchange plans to keep tax benefits for the big City market-makers that will handle trades in large blocks of shares after the introduction of fully automated trading systems next year. As a result, market-makers will continue to be exempt from paying stamp duty on transactions. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, is expected to make an announcement tomorrow that the Treasury is broadly in support of the proposals. He is likely to recommend that the Securities and Investment Board consults member firms over just how the fiscal privileges will work.

CBI dismisses Euroscepticism

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders last night poured scorn on the idea that Britain should withdraw from Europe and accused Eurosceptics of "romantic nationalism and childish xenophobia", which were damaging British companies doing business in Europe. In his final speech as Confederation of British Industry president, Sir Bryan Nicholson told the organisation's annual dinner in London that he welcomed the Prime Minister's recent dismissal of the claim that the UK could flourish outside the EU. Although the sharp criticism was directed at all politicians, most of the annoyance of business leaders is directed at Conservative Eurosceptics, who they believe are hitting British business interests in

Europe. John Major strongly defended the Government's policy over Europe, including key issues such as beef, the single currency and the social chapter opt-out, in a speech at the dinner. Sir Bryan said: "References to cloud-cuckoo land are near the mark — but I am not sure they are quite strong enough. This spring seems to have brought forth a flock of cuckoos which are about as helpful as the biblical plague of locusts." CBI leaders have been arguing for a higher standard of discussion over the future of Europe and Britain's place within it, but Sir Bryan took the criticism much further with his direct attack on Eurosceptic politicians. Common cause, page 29

OECD takes lower view of UK growth

FROM JANET BUSH IN PARIS

THE Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is set to downgrade its forecast for economic growth in Britain this year to around 2 per cent, below the Treasury forecast of 3 per cent. The OECD, caught out by the downturn in European economies, fears a significant knock-on effect on British exports. The Treasury maintains there is a chance 3 per cent growth can be achieved, but in next week's report the OECD is expected to express concern about the UK's relative failure to deal with long-term unemployment and the potential social divisions created by a widening disparity of incomes in the British economy.

Oasis's founding pair to serve writs on directors

By JASON NISSE

THE founders of Oasis Stores, the fashion retailer, will today serve writs on the company and its chairman, deputy chairman, managing director and finance director who they allege negligently or fraudulently "gained control of the business". If successful, Graham and Edwina Brown, who founded the chain with just £400 in the 1970s, could end up with control of the £200 million group. Oasis has dismissed the claim as trouble-making and says it has legal advice that the Browns' case has no merit. The legal action, timed to coincide with Oasis's annual meeting today, centres around the collapse in 1991 of Pinewood, a company founded by the Browns, who owned the Oasis chain. They allege that Michael and Maurice Bennett, the

brothers who are chairman and deputy chairman of Oasis, and Apex Partners, the venture capital house, forced Pinewood into receivership by not investing £500,000 as agreed. The Bennetts, supported by Vivian Scott, Pinewood's managing director, and David Sarsone, finance director, then bought the company out of receivership for just £1.5 million. In 1991-92, its first year of trading, the company made profits of £1.1 million. It made double in the second year, and last year floated on the stock market with a £75 million value. Oasis is now capitalised at £210 million, and directors' beneficial shareholdings are worth £75 million. The Browns, who have legal aid for their claim, have been given an assignment of rights

by the liquidator; they can sue on behalf of the company as well as themselves and, if successful, they may be able to undo the deal to buy Oasis out of receivership and buy the company back for £1.5 million. The Browns claim evidence that the Bennetts knew they were going to buy the company from the receiver. These include five computer spreadsheets drawn up by Mr Sarsone, dating from more than a month before Pinewood's collapse, showing cash flow forecasts for "Newco". A spokesman for Oasis denied that the Bennetts forced the group into receivership. He said they were willing to invest so long as other shareholders did so as well, but Apex, the main backer, refused to do so.

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TransCo accuses regulator of Herod-like action



Spottiswoode: cool exposition

BY PAUL DURMAN

BRITISH GAS yesterday hurled fresh invective at the industry regulator, accusing Ofgas of behaving like King Herod preying on a two-year-old child.

Harry Moulson, managing director of British Gas TransCo, said the pipeline business formed in March 1994 was "a child with a very tough but potentially very bright future". But King Herod was walking the streets, and "his (sic) proposals last week may have a disastrous effect upon this child".

The gulf between British Gas and Ofgas over the proposed pricing controls was highlighted by the difference in their presentations to a gas industry conference organised by the Institute of

Economic Affairs. Where Mr Moulson was emotive, talking of the threat to thousands of jobs and safety standards, King Herod — aka Clare Spottiswoode, Director-General of Ofgas — confined herself to a cool exposition of her methodology.

Ms Spottiswoode said Ofgas's approach was very similar to that taken by other regulators, and was intellectually very strong. "If British Gas were to take this to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the chances of them winning are remote," she added.

Ofgas estimates its proposals will save domestic gas consumers an average of £34 next year, rising to £67 by 2001. She said Ofgas was "deliberately generous" to Transco in allowing

it a return on capital of up to 7 per cent. Ofgas's advisers and the independent gas companies (or shippers) that use Transco's pipeline both recommended lower figures. Ms Spottiswoode said 7 per cent was very generous for a "boring" utility with secure revenues.

Mr Moulson suggested investors might be better off putting their money into gilts. He said the pricing proposals were draconian and offered Transco no incentives for growing its business.

Transco had already cut its staffing levels from 33,000 to 20,000, and it was now being asked to cut another 10,000 jobs. He suggested this could compromise safety levels. "If water pipes fail, you get wet. If gas pipes fail, it could be dangerous." Transco will today launch

a revamped emergency service to deal with gas leaks, with a freephone number. Mr Moulson said the Ofgas price controls would not in future allow it to make the necessary investments in people, training and equipment.

Outside the meeting, Ms Spottiswoode said British Gas had failed to back its claims about job cuts and safety with hard information — although Richard Giordano, British Gas chairman, yesterday replied to her letter on this subject. She is sceptical about Transco's claims about its capital expenditure requirements — and the extent of staffing cuts it has made. Ms Spottiswoode said the British Gas share price, 179½p yesterday, had fallen further than expected.

Transport union gives warning to Blair over pay

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR, the Labour leader, was given warning yesterday by one of the most powerful trade unions that it would reject any agreement on pay with a future Labour government.

But at the same time, the Transport and General Workers' Union broke new ground by explicitly rejecting conflict with employers and pledged instead to work for new agreements offering greater work flexibility in return for increased job security.

Bill Morris, TGWU general secretary, said yesterday that the trade unions had "got the message" from Mr Blair — that a future Labour government would treat the unions with fairness, but not favours.

Mr Morris told a TGWU conference on future dealings with both a Labour government and with employers that the union's reply was a simple one: "We do not expect any favours — and we will give no favours."

Previous Labour governments have sought agreement with the unions on pay by means of an incomes policy, but the TGWU leader made it clear that his union would reach no agreement with Labour on pay. He told the London conference: "I can tell you the T&G's attitude to-

wards pay policies — we've been there, seen it, done it and it does not work. And we are not having it."

While TGWU members were looking forward to a Labour government with which they could work, Mr Morris laid out a much more distant relationship with a future Labour administration than past Labour governments, saying that the TGWU would approach a Labour government as a "supportive, but independent friend."

At a conference, whose title, New Work, New Partnership, specifically echoed Mr Blair's New Labour, New Britain slogan, he insisted that the unions did not see themselves as being "in power" when Labour was in office, any more than they saw themselves as in opposition when the Conservatives were in government.

In what was seen as a speech clearly recasting much traditional TGWU and trade union policy, Mr Morris struck a highly co-operative note with employers, explicitly rejecting the model of industrial conflict as a way forward. In terms of the union's relationship with employers, he said: "I can sum up my view of the future in a sentence. We cannot compete on the basis of

conflict." The TGWU wanted to work "hand-in-hand" with employers, with the specific aim of creating a modern, productive economy in the interests of the nation, its industries and its people.

While Labour leadership sources welcomed what they saw as constructive signals from Mr Morris, they insisted that Labour had no plans in government to introduce any form of pay policy on the lines rejected by the TGWU leader.

Gordon Brown, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, set out to the conference a new and constructive role for trade unions under a Labour government. While Labour would provide rights for employees, it would provide no right to unions to block worthwhile change.

Ian McCartney, Labour's shadow employment minister, told the conference that an incoming Labour government "would not act as a recruiting sergeant for the trade unions." While he strongly reaffirmed Labour's commitment to introducing a minimum wage, for the first time he specifically rejected the idea of different minimum wage levels for each region of Britain, or for different sectors of industry.

Leading article, page 19



David Codling is optimistic in spite of hosepipe bans

Hozelock forecasts further growth

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

HOZELOCK GROUP, the garden equipment company, is optimistic about the future after reporting a 17 per cent advance in first-half profits.

Improved margins, helped by lower raw material costs, better efficiencies and extra capacity helped pre-tax profits to rise to £3.33 million in the six months to March 30, on turnover 14 per cent higher at £20.9 million.

David Hargreaves, chairman, said: "The summer gardening season started late right across Europe, although the peak selling months lie ahead. In the short term, we are faced with the sluggish level of European consumer spending and concern that some UK water companies will be unable to meet demand if we have very dry conditions again."

David Codling, chief executive, is optimistic on longer-term prospects in spite of hosepipe bans in some parts of the country.

He said: "It's been a slow start, but the peak summer period is still to come and we are looking for two or three good selling weekends. The underlying aspects of this business are very strong."

The interim dividend is raised 15 per cent to 3.1p (2.7p) and is payable on July 16, from earnings ahead 18 per cent to 9.2p (7.8p) a share. The shares dipped 16p to 535p.

Investment trusts join pension debate

THE investment trust industry has entered the pensions debate with a call for the Government to promote "flexible, simple low-cost pensions". In its *21st Century Pensions Manifesto*, the Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC) puts forward solutions to the problem of providing for an ageing population.

The AITC, which represents the £56 billion investment trusts sector, believes that three qualities are needed: flexibility, low costs and simplicity. The organisation explains that "very few people will work for a single employer all their life, or even be continuously employed. The sensible solution is, therefore, for individuals to build up their own pot, and for the rules to allow for contributions to vary."

Water bids examined

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission is to investigate rival takeover bids for South West Water, it was confirmed yesterday. Severn Trent and Wessex Water announced their offers in March, and the MMC is obliged to examine proposed takeovers in the water industry. The reference to the MMC by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, was delayed pending an inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading into the impact of the bids on the companies' waste management ventures. Mr Lang has asked the commission to report by September 27.

Kmart loss deepens

KMART CORP, one of America's biggest retailers, reported a net loss of \$99 million in the first quarter, but said the results were on target with its expectations. The latest losses, which compared with a \$28 million deficit a year ago, included a \$61 million charge against discontinued operations. Revenues rose to \$7.5 billion from \$7.4 billion. The closure of loss-making stores and the sale of an auto service business reduced costs by \$105 million. The loss per share was 21 cents, compared with a loss of 6 cents.

Laura Ashley unchanged

ANN IVERSON, chief executive of Laura Ashley, yesterday told shareholders that trading in the first 15 weeks of the year were "broadly" in line with the furnishings and clothing retailer's performance announced ten weeks into the current year. Last month, the group said that in the first ten weeks of the year total sales were down 3 per cent and like-for-like sales were down 2 per cent. Excluding mail order, shop sales rose 1 per cent with like-for-like sales advancing 3 per cent. The shares remained unchanged at 206p.

Shell move in Russia

SHELL and a group of Japanese and American oil companies are to proceed with the preparatory work for the \$10 billion Sakhalin II oil and gas project, one of the largest private investments in Russia. Sakhalin Energy Investment, a consortium of Shell, Marathon, McDermott, Mitsui and Mitsubishi, will spend at least \$50 million over two years on preparatory work to develop the 11 trillion cu ft Lumskye gasfield off Sakhalin Island. It will also develop the Pitun Astokhsyok field containing 700 million barrels of oil.

Hillsdown acquisition

HILLSDOWN HOLDINGS, the Typhoo tea to Hartley's jams food manufacturing group, reinforced its position as one of Europe's leading biscuit-makers by acquiring Continental Bakeries, the European biscuit operations of Allied Domecq, for £48.9 million. Continental makes biscuit products at 11 factories in Holland, France, Germany and Belgium and had operating profits of £2.9 million in 1995 on turnover of £127 million and net assets of £52.1 million. Hillsdown will have annual biscuit sales of more than £350 million.

Call to end Energy sale

LABOUR yesterday again urged a halt to the sell-off of British Energy's more modern nuclear generators after a fall in City valuations to between £1.5 billion and £2 billion. Margaret Beckett, shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, wrote to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, demanding full figures on the privatisation. She said the sale should be called off "for the sake of future taxpayers." The Government would be left without sufficient funds to cover the liabilities of the remaining older Magnox stations.

Placing by software firm

RECOGNITION SYSTEMS GROUP, which develops and sells intelligent software, is to seek a full stock market listing through a placing of shares. New shares are being offered at 70p each, valuing the company at £18.9 million. The placing will raise about £3.26 million and will enable the company to expand sales activities in Britain and America. The company was founded in 1989 by David Bounds, now chairman, and Paul Gregory, managing director. Dealings are expected to begin on May 29.

Readicut profit trimmed

READICUT INTERNATIONAL, the holding company with interests in industrial and household products and services, suffered a decline in pre-tax profits to £9.27 million in the year to March 31 from £14 million previously. The total dividend is held at 3.44p a share, with an unchanged 2.81p final, payable from earnings that fell to 3.15p from 4.68p. There was an exceptional charge of £1.24 million to correct the overstatement of assets in previous years. Sir Roland Smith announced he is to step down as chairman later this year.

Names told to seek help

SIR ADAM RIDLEY, chairman of the Lloyd's Names Committee, has written to nearly 2,500 names urging them to apply for extra financial help under the Lloyd's settlement package. About 3,800 names have applied for a share of £200 million set aside to help badly affected members. But Sir Adam estimates that there are a further 2,469 names who have not applied for a share of the "Tranche 4" of debt credits, meaning that many may not be able to afford to accept the settlement offer and thus have to shoulder all their liabilities.

US attempts to capitalise on proposed BA alliance

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN negotiators are using the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines as a lever to open UK airports to more American air traffic.

A deal between the airlines could trigger a major breakthrough in one of the longest-running trade wrangles between the US and the UK. At talks in Washington on Monday, British Government negotiators kept their US counterparts abreast of the planned alliance, which is said to be nearing completion. The airlines refused to comment.

The proposed alliance centres on sharing computer ticketing and marketing systems and possibly integrating parts of the massive international flight networks of the industry's two largest transatlantic carriers.

Federico Pena, the US Transport Secretary, is expected to use this to prise long-sought concessions from Britain. For years the US has been pressing for greater access to UK airports, particularly Heathrow. British concessions on this issue would almost certainly increase US airline traffic at Heathrow, putting more competitive pressure on British airlines.

Meanwhile, Robert Ayling, BA's chief executive, is believed to have come under pressure from USAir directors to state his policy towards the struggling US airline. There is mounting speculation that BA will sell its 25 per cent of USAir if its agreement with American goes through.

RJB moves into coal mining in Australia

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

RJB, Britain's biggest coal producer, is to move into Australian mining in a deal that could cost £72 million.

The company, which last year took on most of British Coal's English collieries and recently produced full-year pre-tax profits of £173 million, is poised to pump the money into CIM, an open-cast coal producer in New South Wales.

Richard Budge, chief executive, said that RJB was looking at expanding overseas. He said: "We are doing well in the UK, and that is where we will remain, but expansion is limited and we would be foolish to miss opportunities to develop long-term growth."

RJB is renegotiating contracts with the electricity generators to replace deals that end in 1998. The generators, which are making increased use of gas, will demand tight prices from RJB. Avenues of expansion such as into generation would depend on links with the Government or the generators to further clean-coal technology.

RJB intends that the staged investment in CIM will take advantage of growing exports to Japan and the Pacific Rim countries. CIM exports most of its output. Its link with RJB will further development, including opening a second site, and may lead to mining acquisitions in Australia.

RJB will spend £12.5 million initially and buy 12.3 per cent of an enlarged CIM. Options to buy further slices of equity up to June next year could take its stake to 42.9 per cent.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Netherlands Gld	2,750	2,520
Swiss	Sale	New Zealand \$	2,577	2,515
Australia \$	2.01	Norway Kr	10.52	9.72
Austria Sch	13.75	Portugal Esc	250.00	251.50
Belgium Fr	50.75	S Africa Rd	7.12	6.32
Canada \$	2.186	Spain Ps	207.00	188.00
Cyprus Cyp	0.753	Sweden Kr	10.87	10.07
Denmark Kr	9.54	Switzerland Fr	2.04	1.98
Finland Mk	7.70	Turkey Lira	130.00	112.00
France Fr	6.28	USA \$	1.613	1.483
Germany Dm	2.48			
Greece Dr	353.00			
Hong Kong \$	12.37			
Ireland P	1.02			
Israel Sh	5.2500			
Italy Lira	2,462.00			
Japan Yen	176.20			
Malta	0.588			

BETTER TIMES FOR BUSINESS.



LONDON GATWICK - HOUSTON
0920 THU-FRI-SAT-SUN



LONDON GATWICK - NEW YORK/NEWARK
1115 DAILY



LONDON GATWICK - HOUSTON
1200 DAILY



LONDON GATWICK - NEW YORK/NEWARK
1500 DAILY (EXCEPT SATURDAY)

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THYSSEN
THYSSEN AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

United Kingdom shareholders are advised that copies of the Interim Report of the Thyssen Group for the first six months of the fiscal year 1995/96 (from October 1, 1995 to March 31, 1996) are now available from S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., Paying Agency, 2 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PP.

Düsseldorf, Germany, May 1996 The Executive Board

□ Reality tempers Marimastat dream □ Why beer deal should be blocked □ DTI tries to stamp on "business club"

Biotech burns bright but beware

□ MIRACLES happen. When British Biotech floated in 1992, it was just another run-of-the-mill gene splicer living on hopes and prayers. It had no income, no product on the market and was burning up cash at an alarming rate. Today, after a string of clinical trial successes, the market value is about £2 billion and it is considered one of the great entrepreneurial success stories. And it still has no income, no commercial product on the market, and is burning cash.

The company's success story, Marimastat, was designed to slow the growth of tumours generated by a large range of cancers. Encouraging phase 2 trials mean that the drug is to proceed to phase 3 trials, the final stage in the testing process. Historically, about two thirds of phase 3 drugs reach the market.

The dream is that British Biotech will become the next Amgen, the world's most successful biotech company, which last year reported earnings of \$538 million on turnover of \$1.9 billion. It and rivals such as Genentech, Genzyme and Chiron are credited with restoring faith in the biotech sector after successive batterings in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Amgen made it on the back of only two drugs, Neupogen and Epogen, both of fairly limited market potential. Marimastat,

by contrast, appears to have some effect in controlling the spread of any cancer that creates hard tumours. The grim statistics are that, at any one time, there are five to seven million such patients in America and Europe. If Marimastat can capture a significant share of this market before losing its patent in 2013, the highest hopes for British Biotech will be realised.

Perhaps, but the risks are enormous. Any of the dozens of other biotech companies working on similar compounds might launch a more effective version. This frequently happens. More immediately, disappointing results from any of British Biotech's stable of other drugs could cause the shares to slide, if not collapse. This happened last year when the company announced that Batimastat, another anti-cancer drug, was not living up to expectations. One drug may propel the shares, but one drug alone is not enough to sustain them over anything but the short term.

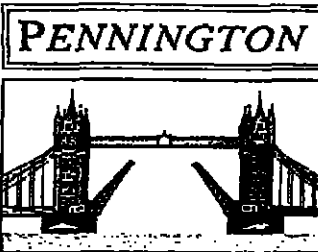
Still another risk is the inevitable rights issue. British Biotech has £70 million in cash

and is burning it at a rate of £35 million a year. That means a cash call in about 18 months.

The frantic scramble for British Biotech shares on the stock market cannot be laid at the directors' door. Other biotech companies have been guilty of puffing their own shares. The Biotech management has acted with exemplary caution, caution that should itself have a sobering effect on investors. Anyone sitting on a now-valuable chunk of shares should consider locking in at least some of this unexpected windfall. Anyone who bought into other unconnected biotech stocks yesterday, encouraged by the scramble, wants their head examined.

Bass's rival stirs the brew

□ BASS will today come under considerable pressure to say just what is the state of play surrounding its bid to become Britain's biggest brewer — again. The company will stone-wall away over a purchase that everyone knows has been the



PENNINGTON

subject of not-so-secret negotiations for the best part of a year. But one of its competitors is apparently doing its best to scupper the deal.

Bass is reporting half-way figures, but the talk will not be of the delights of Caffeys ale and Hoopers Hooch but of the purchase of Carlsberg-Tetley. Some optimists had hoped to have this sewn up in time for today's announcement, but unsecured reports have suggested the deal is bogged down in negotiations with the regulatory authorities.

Given that no one is commenting formally, speculation might as well run rife. Bass had long enjoyed market leadership and about 25 per cent of brewing in Britain. That lead was lost, much

to the company's chagrin, last year when Scottish & Newcastle merged with Courage, creating a 32 per cent market share — or 30 per cent, or perhaps 25 per cent, depending on who you believed. It all depended how you measured it, and S&N was naturally shooting for the lower figure.

As the merger proceeded, so did much bad-tempered muttering that it should not, abuse of market share, and so on, sourced quite clearly back to Bass and the third big player, Whitbread. Some impressive lobbying skills had been called into play, but they failed. Now the same thing is happening again, with the reports of official opposition to a Bass/Carlsberg-Tetley tie-up with 40 per cent of the market, and guess where they may have come from? Whitbread, they say.

Competition policy has clearly toughened up drastically over recent months, and it is doubtful if S&N/Courage would have such an easy ride today. Bass/Carlsberg-Tetley certainly must not. If one company is allowed to produce two out of every five pints brewed in this country, there would seem little

point in even having a Monopolies and Mergers Commission. One can only hope the authorities are indeed taking a firm line.

Pyramid power

□ PYRAMID selling has a period 1960s feel about it, like Gannex mags and all those gritty Rita Tushingham films. Human credulity would not stretch so far today, one thinks. Then again, apparently sane investors have sunk their life savings into ostrich farms.

The drama at the High Court yesterday, with the Department of Trade and Industry seeking to wind up Titan Business Club, looks like ostriches revisited, with the proviso that Titan is if anything rather less of a certain bet than the ostrich farmers.

The case came to light with an anonymous letter from a constituent of David Rendel, Liberal Democrat member for Newbury, Berkshire. In April, Mr Rendel managed to insert the letter's contents into an adjournment debate, thus protecting all ref-

erence to the matter with the cloak of Parliamentary privilege.

Titan's approach to pyramid selling is that of a Southern Baptist meeting, only rather more exclusive, it seems. The constituent claimed you can only be invited by an existing member, and there is much clapping, standing ovations and, apparently, "ritual chanting". You sign an agreement laying you open to a £4,000 fine if confidentiality is breached. You then pay to join the club, and your return kicks in when you have found four others willing to follow you, the letter concluded.

Needless to say, no product changes hands and the whole thing usually ends one way, in tears all round. Investors should not need reminding of this. But Titan is probably not the only such business now operating.

Turf accountancy

□ BOSSES should be paid like jockeys, who have an incentive to win prize money but under-perform if given big retainers, according to a paper for the LSE's Centre for Economic Performance. Top earners will hope the analogy is not taken too far. Having to clear masses of hurdles, wear gaudy silk shirts and risk being fired after lunch for failing to meet your handicapped weight would be too awful.

Chelsfield in £102m cash call

Chelsfield, the property group headed by Elliot Bernal, is raising £102 million from shareholders to help to fund the £250 million development of the White City shopping centre in west London.

Chelsfield is also buying in, for £10.3 million, the outstanding one-tenth interest in the Merry Hill shopping centre, near Dudley.

The company is issuing 47.1 million shares on a 3-for-10 basis at 220p each. Chelsfield said that its economic interest in the completed White City development would be between 45 and 70 per cent.

"In addition, the terms of the partnership arrangements are such as to entitle Chelsfield individually to 75 per cent of the uplift over the cost attaching to the entire site," it said.

Chelsfield has spent, or has committed, £50 million for the 37-acre White City site.

Tempus, page 28

Eldridge up

Eldridge, Pope & Co, the Dorset brewer and pub retailer, lifted pre-tax profits to £956,000, from £879,000, in the half-year to March 31. The interim dividend rises to 1.85p (1.65p), from earnings per share of 3.72p (3.26p). Turnover grew to £28.2 million (£24.8 million). The company, whose shares are on the Unlisted Securities Market, plans to obtain a full listing.

Inchcape hope

Inchcape, the troubled distribution group, expects improvement in full-year profits after a restructuring. In spite of difficult trading conditions in the first half, Sir Colin Marshall, chairman, was upbeat on second-half prospects at the annual meeting yesterday. Shareholders backed a long-term incentive scheme for executives that had been criticised by some institutional investors. It links pay to the share price performance compared with the FT-SE 100.

Jarvis at £14m

Shares in Jarvis Porter Group, the label printer, fell 16½p, to 272½p, as full-year pre-tax profits of a record £14.1 million, up from £10.6 million, fell short of market expectations and the company expressed caution on near-term prospects amid margin pressures and economic uncertainty. A final dividend of 4.6p (4.1p), due on July 26, makes 6.75p (6p).

SFA rebuke

The Securities and Futures Authority has ordered Sobhag Stockbroking, a private client stockbroker in north London, to cease holding clients' money and securities. The SFA, which said the firm had "consistently breached its rules, told it to limit its business to receiving, transmitting and executing client orders on an agency basis. The firm appealed against the SFA order, but lost.

Vosper turns to overseas buyers for defence work

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

WARSHIP orders from Saudi Arabia, other overseas markets and general diversification are moving up Vosper Thornycroft's agenda as the shipbuilder tries to combat a constricting home base.

Vosper cut 350 jobs in March, for which it incurs a £3.8 million charge, after losing an important Royal Navy frigate contract to GEC. Only relatively modest UK contracts for landing craft are up for grabs in the near future, and Martin Jay, Vosper's chief executive, yesterday predicted a further slimming of the warship industry.

It has reduced from employing 25,000 people at a peak in the 1970s to about 7,000 now. Since the demise of Swan Hunter, only Vosper and GEC build warships in the UK. Mr Jay, whose company employs about 3,300, said forecasts estimated that employment would settle at about 5,000 to 6,000.

Vosper is in negotiations with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, other countries and the UK for future contracts. Mr Jay said he hoped a firm deal would be clinched by the end of the year. Saudi Arabia has, through government agreements it has with the UK, signalled an order for three minesweepers from Vosper. The company received an "instruction to proceed" in 1988 with six minesweepers and has so far produced three. Mr Jay said he was not concerned that he was not concerned that several hundred millions, may be hindered by the current discord between Saudi Arabia and the UK over Britain's sheltering of Muhammad al-Masari, the Saudi dissident. While other companies have complained that relations between the countries had hit their order books, he said: "I have found no echoes of that."

Vosper is expanding operations outside the core ship-

building operations into activities such as facilities management, electronic controls, marine products and technical documentation. When it moved into these fields five years ago, they accounted for 5 per cent of both sales and profits. Now they make up 35 per cent of Vosper's business. Soon they will form up to half of the company's activities as it seeks to even its cash flow and counter the feast or famine nature of shipbuilding. It is also a move to broaden operations after the end of the cold war.

Vosper increased pre-tax profit 10 per cent to £27.6 million in the year to March 31. The company, which is seeking bolt-on acquisitions, has net cash of £80 million and an order book of £450 million. The final dividend, payable on August 14, was set at 16.7p, making a total of 23.5p and a 12 per cent increase on the previous year.



Martin Jay, left, and Chris Girling, finance director, expect further slimming in their industry

Limited liability move by Goldman Sachs partners

By PATRICIA TEHAN AND RICHARD THOMSON

GOLDMAN SACHS, the last big investment partnership on Wall Street, has taken steps to limit the extent to which partners put their finances at risk.

The move follows the decision by Goldman Sachs partners, taken in January, not to seek a flotation on the stock market this year.

In a memorandum to staff, Jon Corzine, senior partner and chairman, and Henry Paulson, vice-chairman and chief operating officer, said the new arrangements would "strengthen the stability of the firm's capital base, reduce partners' personal risk in the event of a catastrophic loss and, by these and related measures, encourage partners to lengthen their active careers at the firm". The measures to

turn Goldman Sachs into a limited liability partnership were approved by 174 working partners earlier this week and will also affect 110 limited partners.

The main alteration is to retain the capital of departing partners within the firm for longer than at present. Partners who leave the firm will now have to wait at least six years until they can withdraw their stake instead of about four years at present.

The move is designed to discourage partners from leaving — although none have actually left within the last year — and to ensure that Goldman Sachs does not suffer any sudden loss of capital.

A substantial portion of the partners' pay goes directly into

the firm where it remains until they leave or retire. While it remains in the firm, it is counted as part of its capital. The firm currently has a capital base of about \$5 billion.

In the memorandum, Mr Corzine and Mr Paulson said there would be no changes in how the firm managed its business and that "partners' economic interests will continue to rise or fall together with the fortunes of our single, overall firm".

Goldman was forced to consider the issue of how to protect itself from a sudden loss after a poor year in 1994 when profits crashed, and capital declined to \$4.77 billion from \$5.01 billion, prompting worries that retiring partners would withdraw their capital.

FII dives after warning of loss

By SARAH BAGNALL

FII, the Marks & Spencer footwear supplier, saw nearly 40 per cent of its stock market valuation wiped out yesterday after it issued a loss warning and unveiled a boardroom shake-up.

FII said falling sales and reduced margins would result in a £1 million operating loss in the year to May 31. The result compares with a pre-tax loss of £7.66 million last time, which was struck after £8.25 million of exceptional costs relating to the sale of its scientific and technical division. Analysts were expecting a return to profit.

In a bid to restore its fortunes FII is in the process of a thorough review to strip out substantial costs. The company said: "We are confi-

dent that the results of this review will return the company to profit in the 1996-97 financial year." The shares fell 185p to 233p yesterday.

FII also revealed that Charles Ryder, who led a management buy-in in January 1995, is to relinquish the chief executive's post and become non-executive chairman. Mr Ryder, who before joining FII was joint managing director of Claremont Garments, paid 315p a share along with other members of the buy-in team for an 11.7 per cent stake in the group.

Oliver Prens, 58, who took over as non-executive chairman last May has resigned for personal reasons. Philip Buscombe, who joined FII as finance director last month, becomes chief executive.

Enterprise buys Labatt estate

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

ENTERPRISE INNS, the pub company, said yesterday it was doubling its estate to 1,000 houses with the £51 million purchase of the John Labatt pub group from Interbrew, the Belgian brewer. Enterprise, which floated on the Stock Exchange in October, is acquiring 413 fully-owned pubs, comprising 248 tenanted and 165 managed houses. It will also inherit a 50 per cent stake in 98 outlets, co-owned with Paramount.

The Labatt chain is concentrated in the North West, Midlands and South of England. Enterprise said the deal would be non-dilutive to earnings in its first year and Ted Tuppen, chief executive, said he expected cost savings of about £1 million a year from the closure of Labatt's head office, as well as an improvement in beer margins in the

enlarged estate. Enterprise will pay primarily through £43 million of debt and raise £9.5 million through a one-for-six rights issue at 163p a share. Interbrew has an option to subscribe for 2.5 million shares at 250p a share in early 1998. Enterprise will assume net liabilities of £10 million. Mr Tuppen said the aim was to convert the Labatt managed estate to leases and tenancies, although it may make a few disposals. Last year Labatt's operating profits were £4.9 million on a turnover of £32.5 million.

Enterprise also announced a 26 per cent increase in pre-tax half-year profits to £3.5 million. A maiden interim dividend of 2.25p is payable on July 3. The shares rose 11p to close at 94p.

Tempus, page 28

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Biotech shares soar as drug trials progress

BRITISH Biotechnology is the sort of company that investors dream of. Every £1,000 invested in the company when it came to market in July 1992 would now be worth £7,800.

Once again it was the market's best performing share yesterday, soaring 28.5p to an all-time high of £33.15, after briefly touching £37.88. This latest surge of demand for the stock comes after the release of the latest clinical trial of Marimastat, its cancer treatment.

The results of the findings into human trials of colorectal, ovarian, pancreatic and prostate cancer were released to coincide with presentations to Asco, the US clinical investigators.

Brokers say the results of the trials, which include dosage and effects, means that British Biotech can now undertake definitive clinical trials of the drug. By the close of business a total of two million shares had been traded. Brokers say the next step for British Biotech could be the £40m. Only last year they were trading at a low of 42.5p.

The rest of the equity market took its lead from Wall Street's 61-point rise overnight, its ninth in a row. But London's enthusiasm soon waned, with prices unable to maintain their early pace. The FT-100 index ended the session 11.2 points up at 3,789.4 as 710 million shares were traded.

Railtrack, which made its debut on Monday in hectic trading, reverted to a more sedate pace. It closed unchanged at 220.7p, with turnover slowing to less than 20 million shares.

Oil shares bounced back from Monday's shake-out that accompanied news for the oil-food agreement struck between Iraq and the United Nations. Worries about excess oil flooding the market appear to have been overcome. BP rose 9p to 578.5p, Shell 10.5p to 937p, Enterprise 12p to 472p, British Borneo 25p to 606p and Lasso 6.5p to 183p.

Revised institutional demand lifted Thorn EMI 27p to £17.96. The group is preparing to embark on a major roadshow following the announcement of its preliminary results on June 11, giving institutions a full rundown of the proposed demerger of its music business in August. The full cost of the demerger is now expected to



Sir Richard Greenbury of M&S, which surged 29.5p

be around £75 million. In recent months there has been persistent talk of a bid for the company.

Full-year figures at the top end of expectations and news of a turnaround at its US Brooks Brothers subsidiary share of Marks and Spencer, surging 29.5p to 462p, Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman, was in confident

Argos, the catalogue retailer, adding a further 7.5p to 720p after Monday's confident trading statement.

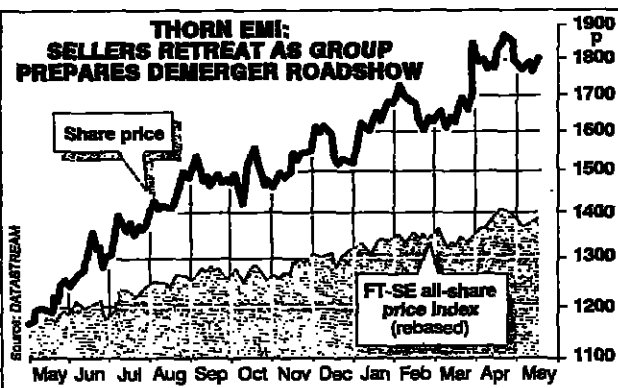
There was also support for Harvey Nichols, up 15p to 330p, Kingfisher 14p stronger to 606p, and Oasis Group 6p firmer to 412p.

FII, the footwear group which is a major supplier to Marks & Spencer, tumbled

Speculative buying lifted Christie International, the fine art auctioneer, 8p to 224p. There has been persistent speculation that Joseph Lewis has received an offer for his stake of almost 30 per cent. Brokers say an offer of 260p a share may be just round the corner, valuing the company at £427 million.

moor when talking to brokers after the announcement. He reported a pick-up in sales during April and May, saying: "There is every sign of the consumer coming out of the trenches". Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, has increased its pre-tax profit forecast for the current year by £20 million to £1.12 billion. The news attracted support from the rest of the high street with

185p to 283p on the news that the group is expected to plunge into the red during the second half. Poor trading conditions are likely to result in a trading loss of £1 million. Sales were 9 per cent up on a year ago, but margins remain "very unsatisfactory". Only last week rival Chamberlain Phipps lost around one-third of its value in the wake of some disappointing trading news.



The shares were steady at 30p last night.

News of a bid approach for Park Food Group came after the official close of business, with the shares unaltered at 89p. A new company led by Stuart Marks, a Park Food director, plans to launch an agreed bid for the food hamper supplier. He has resigned from the board and asked the company to release certain information which would enable him to assess the feasibility of such a bid. At last night's close, Park Food carried a price tag of £143.6 million.

NFC, the logistics group, slipped 2p to 158p as a large line of stock went through the market. A line of five million shares were sold at 156.5p before being sold on at 156.5p.

The fall in South West Water was restricted to 1p at 659p after the referral of bids by both Wessex Water and Severn Trent to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The referral has been made on the basis that a merger between South West and either of the other two companies would result in combined assets of more than £30 million. Severn Trent fell 7p to 559p, while Wessex shed 9p to 302p.

The rest of the water companies took the news badly, with Anglian Water losing 8p at 535p, United Utilities 13p at 538p, Yorkshire 6p to 631p, and Hyder 3p to 716p.

Enterprise Inns stood out with a jump to 14p at 197p after virtually doubling in size with the acquisition of the John Labatt UK chain of pubs.

GILT-EDGED: Prices marked time for much of the day as dealers attempted to establish a new trading range. A late sell-off of German bunds also impacted on the London market, which closed at its low for the day. The next auction has been pencilled in for Wednesday, with the Bank of England offering £3 billion of treasury 8 per cent 2021.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished £1.52 lower at £106.76 as a total of 44,000 contracts were completed. In long, treasury 8 per cent 2015 fell £1.52 to £97.12, while at the shorter end treasury 9 per cent 2000 eased £1.5 to 102.1.

NEW YORK: Profit-taking in the oil sector saw shares a little lower on Wall Street, with the Dow Jones industrial average down 6.65 points at 5,742.17 by midday.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)
Dow Jones 5742.17 (+6.65)
S&P Composite 674.03 (+0.88)

Tokyo
Nikkei Average 22091.24 (+112.74)

Hong Kong
Hang Seng 10888.77 (+101.18)

Amsterdam
EOT Index 561.84 (+3.68)

Sydney
All Ordinaries 2242.9 (+8.5)

Frankfurt
DAX 2370.18 (+20.78)

Singapore
Straits 2310.16 (+12.76)

Brussels
General 6391.14 (+85.68)

Paris
CAC-40 2137.71 (+91.12)

Zurich
SIX Gen 788.10 (+2.60)

London
FT-100 3789.4 (+11.2)

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TEMPUS

Marking time

MARKS AND SPENCER is in good, if rather dull, shape. The retailer beat City profit forecasts yesterday thanks to a strong recovery in profits from Brooks Brothers and a rise in net interest income. That was enough to send the shares upward, helping to restore the group's rating, but dull trading figures offer little reason to pursue the shares.

Long considered the king of the high street, M&S shares are expected to trade at a premium to the market. But this king is feeling its age and the crown has been tarnished in recent years, causing the share price premium to fall from 32 per cent to as low as 16 per cent. The welcome boost from America helped to restore some of the glory but there is more growth elsewhere in the retail sector. M&S tends to perform best in troubled times. The company should benefit

from an upturn in consumer confidence but other retailers will see enhanced performance. In clothing, M&S tends to shine when the economy is weak. The company only managed a meagre 3.9 sales rise last year and given the aggressive competition from Burton and Next, M&S might do better allocating less space to women's clothing.

Longer term, the future for M&S may be overseas, particularly in Asia where its stores are showing impressive sales and profit gains. Expanding its retail presence in the Far East makes sense at a time when the company is seeking cheaper manufacturing locations abroad. However, the Far East is still a small part of the whole and at 17 times earnings, the shares look expensive. Unless we are heading for a consumer downturn, there are better buys than Marks and Spencer.

Chelsfield

CHELSFIELD's share price has been begging for a cash call for at least two months. The company is not highly geared, but the share price has risen to a level at which the company would be foolish not to tap the market. The shares are being issued at 220p, in line with most forecasts of the year-end asset value.

More interesting is where the net asset value is heading over the next two years, and the signs are that the momentum will continue upwards with the White City shopping centre providing much of the growth. From a standing start last September and via a series of circuitous deals, Chelsfield has managed to secure control of the site and yesterday said its share of the development surplus could be as high as 75 per cent, with Scottish

Amicable and Godfrey Bradman sharing the rest.

Chelsfield is a past master at joining the race late yet arriving first through the finishing post and no one should be surprised if the property group manages to secure itself a much larger interest than 75 per cent in the completed project. The prize is big, with some esti-

imating that the development surplus could be worth 71p to Chelsfield on relatively low shop rental estimates of £175 per square foot. Zone A, almost half the going rate at Brent Cross. Chelsfield's share price riding on the expectation of the next deal, but if those numbers are right, it deserves its rating

only 20 staff to the company. At the same time it has secured long-term beer supply deals ahead of expected price rises.

More pubs are likely to come on to the market over the next few years as the big pub retailers focus on their huge managed operations. Enterprise may well have found a profitable position as a niche small pub operator.

BAA

Almost ten years after the privatisation of the British Airports Authority (BAA) and five years since the Monopolies and Mergers Commission delivered into the issue of private control of London's airports, our members of Parliament are getting hot under the collar about BAA's monopoly. Tardiness is a characteristic of an MP's concern. The timing of yesterday's suggestion by the Transport Committee that BAA shed Gatwick and Stansted to encourage com-

petition was also unfortunate as the MMC has virtually finished its quinquennial review of BAA: the report is expected in June. Nevertheless, the share market disliked the suggestion although the size of the sell-off suggests the worry is taken.

BAA is a licence to print money, not because of the landing charges that are relatively cheap by international standards but because it has a captive market for its tenants, the airlines who rent office and other accommodation and the retailers. Retailers do not have to rent space at Heathrow and Gatwick but airlines do. Sensitive to charges it was exploiting its tenants in the early years, BAA has taken the pressure off but while landing charges are subject to price control there is no cap on rents at Heathrow and Gatwick. If the MMC wants to get tough it could investigate the Heathrow property market.

EDITED BY CARL MORTIMER

RIGHTS OVER WHITE CITY

Chelsfield share price (pence)

FT all-share price index (rebased)

Source: DATASTREAM

May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Chelsfield share price (pence)

FT all-share price index (rebased)

Source: DATASTREAM

May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Enterprise Inns

ENTERPRISE INNS has been written off as a dull investment since the company's stock market debut last October. Enterprise owns a tenanted estate, considered less sexy than managed houses, and it has failed to match the premium share ratings of those rivals.

The City is sceptical of its estate, built up from the cast-offs of the big brewers. Nor has Enterprise taken the plunge into fashionable food and theme pubs. Instead, the company is relying on old-fashioned formula of collecting rent and pushing high volumes of beer over the bar.

But the case against Enterprise has been overstated. While the big operators are no longer interested in the smaller pub, Enterprise has developed a low-cost base from which it will reap rewards as it expands. The purchase of the Labatt estate means that Enterprise has doubled in size, while adding

only 20 staff to the company. At the same time it has secured long-term beer supply deals ahead of expected price rises.

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MAJOR CHANGES

Porter Chadburn n/p 6
Queensborough n/p 12

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THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

It's no holiday being an MP

TIMING can't have been the top priority for the ten MPs heading off to New York and Washington next month. The Commons Treasury Select Committee, headed by Sir Tom Arnold, is due to publish its report into the Stock Exchange in the same month. But all bar one of the committee members feels that it would still be worth a jaunt to New York, to see the New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq in action.

While there, they reasoned, they might as well pop up to Washington as part of their work on the IMF. Quentin Davies, a member of the committee, feels it would also be worth a trip to Paris and Frankfurt, to check out the French and German systems. All in the public's interest, and funded by the public purse, of course.

Ravenous Cathay

CATHAY PACIFIC is pouring its funds into a new HQ at Hong Kong's yet-to-be-built Chek Lap Kok airport, which is to house the world's largest kitchen and a staff hotel, complete with its own shopping mall.

To be ready by 1998, and at a cost of HK\$3.5 billion, the entire airline is being moved to a 775,000 sq ft office building at the airport. Around £129 million alone has been spent on the kitchen, which will produce 80,000 meals a day and attempt to bring a more traditionally Asian flavour to the airline meals, including noodles for breakfast.



"Great news — Uncle Jim left us a Biotech share"

EVEN under new management, Yorkshire Water is struggling to avoid mistakes. The company has mailed millions of letters to customers, explaining why a hosepipe ban has been imposed before the summer even begins. Perplexed residents of York and Grimsby were among the recipients, even though they are supplied by different companies. More recently a resident of Robin Hood's Bay was sent six copies of the letter.

Flight of fancy

PLANS to include a Virgin plane in a mural at Raymond Blanc's new brasserie in Oxford have been quashed. Originally, one of Richard Branson's red and white aircraft was to be included in the mural at Le Petit Blanc, alongside a depiction of M. Blanc decked out as an angel. Mr Branson, who is a partner in Blanc Restaurants, is now represented by a symbolic hot air balloon.

Stage fright

GLAXO Wellcome saw three young choristers will under the spotlight at a concert sponsored by the pharmaceutical giant. Programmes rustled as the first child fainted at the concert performed by the Hertfordshire Chorus and the Cantate Vior Choir. But then a second and third child went down and the audience began to wonder what exactly the children were taking part in. Glaxo Wellcome is now believed to be on the lookout for a fainting cure.

MORAG PRESTON

Corporate Britain caught in profit warning paradox

Martin Waller

examines the reasons behind the recent spate of announcements

It has its own melancholy familiarity. There is even a kind of poetry in the formal, measured cadences. "In the light of current trading, the directors believe that results for the current year will fall some way below market expectations."

It is the profit warning. The above is the formalised version, slipped out via the Stock Exchange trading screens to waiting brokers, whose response is usually a panic cut in the price they offer for the stock and a sharp share price fall while they work out how bad it really is.

The less formal version is sometimes indistinguishable from a normal trading statement — until the implications sink in that trading is significantly worse than anyone had been expecting. The share price tends to hold initially, and then slip back with a rush as the penny drops at the brokers.

Two examples of the formal version came last week. One was from Hodder Headline, one of the most aggressive book publishers; the other from Chamberlain Phipps, a small footwear group with a chequered history.

At the other end of the corporate size range, the mighty BTR combine used its annual meeting on Thursday to warn shareholders that first-half profits were running "moderately below" the same period last year. This week, APV, the engineer, told its annual meeting of an £8 million shortfall because of much-needed cost cuts.

These were only the latest in a wave of announcements since the middle of last year intended to calm market expectations. Since the start of March, according to recent research from NatWest Securities, there were 15 profit warnings from reasonable-sized companies such as George Wimpey, Pearson, Tate & Lyle and GUS. To that list must now be added BTR.

Such a rash of gloomy news might seem paradoxical. The economy is in good shape, there are stirrings in the housing market, even consumer spending is picking up. More concrete evidence comes from the results reporting season just over, from companies with a December year-end. This was very much in line with expectations, and while individual companies did better or worse than market expectations, corporate Britain showed itself to be in excellent shape.

There are three likely reasons for the rash of bad news on the City's screens that shows no signs of stopping. The first is over-reporting; the second, an earlier over-optimism on the part of City analysts. The third is macro-economic — the economy may broadly be in good shape, but manufacturing is in temporary, technical and unexpected recession.

Over-reporting is a result of the Stock Exchange's tightening of the rules on keeping the market informed. Previously, companies had kept analysts abreast of developments by means of informal, off-the-record briefings. This arrangement had advantages for both sides. The analysts appeared to be better informed than perhaps they were, while the company avoided any sharp lurches in its share price caused by surprise news.

This informal arrangement still exists, to some extent. Most research is communicated to the relevant company by the broker well in advance, and any changes to forecasts also tend to find their way to the finance director before they are published. Here they can be gently massaged up or down as appropriate. But in February 1995, the Exchange



Bearers of bad tidings: Tim Hely-Hutchinson, left, of Hodder Headline; Ian Strachan, top, of BTR; Sir Neil Shaw, middle, of Tate & Lyle; Joe Dwyer, right, of George Wimpey; and Dan Sullivan, bottom, of Chamberlain Phipps

indicated its dislike of off-the-record briefings by strengthening the rules forbidding the release of price-sensitive information to individuals. A well-reported scandal involving Caradon, the building materials firm, a City broker and a big City public relations operator served only to toughen this line. "What you don't want is half the market operating on reliable information the other half doesn't have," said one Exchange insider.

Companies, therefore, are today under strict instruction to go through official channels. This leads to a plethora of trading announcements, each triggered whenever conditions change.

One source, who understandably does not wish to be named, put it thus: "There's a great difference between shading an analyst's views and saying profits are going to be 10 per cent less than the market expects. Markets are very sensitive. If you have a material change to your business outlook, you have to get it out there, and as an announcement to the market rather than just phoning a few people."

The earlier over-optimism in the City on company earnings dates from last summer, when forecasts for the reporting season just finished were unrealistically high. Mark Brown, head of strategy and economics at ABN-Amro Hoare Govett, said his securities house was then looking for 19 per cent growth in profits from non-financial sources

from British companies in 1995. With inflation running at a couple of percentage points this is an enormous real jump, and it proved to be too much. By the autumn, this had fallen to 12 per cent; and to 10 per cent this spring. "The results came in on average in line with the forecasts, but these had been brought down beforehand," said Mr Brown.

Forecasts for 1996 have also been cut, but less drastically — from 14 per cent non-financial earnings growth to 10 per cent again. "The analysts' numbers looking forward now, given that we've had the 1995 results, are much more realistic," added Mr Brown.

The reason those forecasts for last year and this were so far out of kilter links neatly with the third reason for the rash of profit warnings — macro-economic trends. Expectations of growth built into companies' forward planning last year were likewise too optimistic, because no one predicted the mini-recession in manufacturing. This weakness in manufacturing is at odds with growth in consumer demand, as logged by bodies such as the CBI, whose most recent Distributive Trades Survey shows the best response from retailers for two years. This gives rise to some hope for the future, but did not prevent some companies with exposure to consumer markets being profit-warning victims.

Also among the victims were a clutch

of building materials firms. Although estate agents, building societies and other interested parties have been trying to persuade everyone that the recovery in housing is already under way, those on the ground have yet to see much benefit in terms of higher materials sales.

Sharp moves in share prices, such as after a bad trading statement, suggest a nervous stock market, prone to sell everything at the first sign of trouble. Many observers believe the market is looking topky and ready for a correction. But NatWest makes an intriguing point. Profit warnings in the fourth quarter of last year resulted in an 8 per cent underperformance by the stocks involved over the subsequent month. But that was in special circumstances: inflation was near ideal — high coupons, falling inflation, and the authorities had launched a 20-year gilt with

a 16 per cent coupon not long before; and the fall was helped by sterling, rising strongly on a tide of North Sea oil. The US, by contrast, has chosen to launch at a time of low inflation and some fiscal stringency, and a strong conventional bond market. The appeal of indexation is not obvious.

A revolution, then? Not yet at any rate. "Embraced" is too strong a word: the announcement last week was of an initial issue of up to \$3 billion of indexed paper, dates and terms still unknown: more a first tentative fumble than a hug. But the implications are revolutionary, all the same, given that the Treasury's unstated aim is said to be to fund 15 per cent of its borrowing (say, \$45 billion) in this way. For the first time, the world's biggest financial market will have a market-determined benchmark of riskless real return — and benchmark not only for bonds, but for equities. In London, be it noted, indexed yield a shade less than equities, because they are risk-free.

The results of a foggy-free market in New York are hardly likely to be as dramatic as they were in London 15 years ago. Then, the offer of indexed gilts brought down the yield on long conventional stocks by nearly half in six months. And not just on Wall Street. In Spain and Italy, conditions for indexation are near ideal — high coupons, falling inflation, and the authorities had launched a 20-year gilt with



ANTHONY HARRIS

US arrives late for the revolution

Professor Milton Friedman should be a happy man this week. The monetarism he proclaimed has lost some of its appeal. Governments have found it unworkable, and its results in the world's bond markets have been unfortunate: the good news/bad news equation. The bond market vigilantes threaten to stifle not only any attempt at fiscal refutation, but spontaneous recovery too. Activity and money growth rise, bond and stock prices fall, and everything peters out. A less than Nobel-scale achievement.

But he foresaw this, and at last the US Treasury has embraced the solution he urged more than 20 years ago: indexed borrowing. The proposal was first floated in the US Treasury more than a decade ago, after an exploratory visit to London. But it was blocked by Jim Baker, at the behest of Wall Street, and has stayed blocked, in spite of vocal support by no less than the near-sainted Alan Greenspan. Perhaps he can take the operational credit; anyway, it is now official.

Theory, before we get to US practice. Indexed borrowing used to be described as an admission of defeat by inflation, fit only for a banana republic; but the truth is just the opposite. Since this is the one form of Government debt which cannot be inflated away, it is more like a declaration of war: a government prepared to bet on its own determination to keep inflation in check. But other things being equal, it only shows a fiscal saving if future inflation proves lower than the rate discounted in conventional bond yields. However, they are not equal, since indexation diversifies government borrowing, and offer inflation-forgoes a security which directly addresses their fears.

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Are the US Treasury officials, then, hoping for an indexed yield of under 2 per cent? Not if they are listening to market guesses, which range from 3.5 per cent upwards. Their timing, indeed, looks puzzling: bear food when the bulls are grazing. Perhaps the old opponents of indexation want to see it off to a bad start. Or perhaps the ideological breakthrough occurred a few weeks back, when the Wall Street markets were looking sick. The hope then might have been that an indexed escape route would prevent bond-market fears of economic success from proving self-fulfilling; or, more simply, to attract the mutual funds, which have not recently been bonds buyers. Now it looks a little like a muffled launch.

All the same, the genie is out of the bottle; and if the Treasury sticks to its plans, it will have potentially large effects on market valuations. And not just on Wall Street. In Spain and Italy, conditions for indexation are near ideal — high coupons, falling inflation, and the authorities had launched a 20-year gilt with

UK must make common cause in Europe, says Robbie Gilbert

Time to rejoin social policy debate

On questions of social policy in Europe, our Government is like the unsavoury misfit in the TV sitcom *Rab C. Nesbitt* — difficult for others to comprehend and rarely thought to be worth the effort.

The Inter-Governmental Conference now beginning offers the best chance since Maastricht to move away from this unwelcome typecasting. An effective British contribution is needed to ensure that Europe is not committed to levels of social protection that future generations will be unable to afford.

Britain's refusal at Maastricht to concede majority voting on a wider range of social issues was a useful marker — at a time when other governments did not recognise these dangers. But some who take a longer view worry increasingly about Britain's inability since Maastricht to forge alliances around a realistic, shared view of the role of social policy in Europe.

Perceptions elsewhere in Europe have shifted our way. The turning point came in 1993 when the commission published its White Paper, *Competitiveness, Growth, Employment*. Those who had previously argued for the most generous entitlements, almost

regardless of cost, were now saying that rising social costs threatened the economic growth and, in particular, the employment opportunities needed to support them.

On social policy, all could probably agree today that while "no important step can be gained unless you can effect some reduction of the hours of labour and humanise their toil, the great problem is to be able to achieve such results without violating those principles of economic truth upon which the prosperity of all states depends." The message is consistent with Delors in 1993, but the words are Disraeli's, setting out the principles of modern Conservatism in 1872. Hence the disappointment that this changed approach has not brought Britain to the forefront of the policy debate.

Here the problem of the Social Protocol opt-out as a long-term strategy emerges. We cannot be indifferent to policy developments. Sometimes we are directly affected. Take the Working Time directive, and the threat posed to flexible working by its imaginative endorsement of

the old five-days-a-week and eight-hours-a-day pattern. It stems from treaty obligations on which there is no opt-out.

Meanwhile, proposals brought forward under the Social Protocol may not apply directly here, but they still affect the economic performance of UK businesses in respect of their European operations, in spite of our opt-out. If Europe falters, Britain suffers — because the European Union is our main trading partner.

The opt-out should end now others recognise the real threat of excessive social burdens

What we need is to make common cause with others in Europe who recognise it is essential to make countries attractive to the world as places to do business — like Ireland, Portugal and Sweden. The Government should offer to end the opt-out now that others recognise the real threat of excessive social burdens.

The opportunity is there for our Government to nail down the commission and Council of Ministers to the approach they outlined in their 1993 White

Paper: even-handed application of European law in all countries; more emphasis in European policy on education and training to standards recognised everywhere; and measures that encourage firms to deploy more people more effectively to satisfy their customers, rather than push up costs and cut jobs in the name of social progress.

All public policy in Britain now comes with a price tag. In theory, this happens in Europe but it simply is not taken seriously. Britain must insist that every social policy proposal is properly assessed in future. Its impact on the competitiveness of Europe's businesses in the world, and on their ability to grow and support employment, must be given due weight. We must not leave insupportable burdens to future generations.

If we act now, there could be an opportunity to win practical improvements in the directives already agreed on parental leave and, in particular, on European works councils, before these come into operation elsewhere.

But the British Government has an internal organisation

problem to overcome first. Social policy proposals emerging from Directorate-General V in Brussels are the clear responsibility of one or two ministries in other countries — here they are split messily between four. Health and safety matters belong to Environment; pensions fall to the Department of Social Security; employment or training are the responsibility of the Department for Education and Employment, which also has responsibility for equal opportunities, but, confusingly, maternity pay and parental leave — and many key employee relations topics, such as the proposals on works councils — now reside at the Department of Trade and Industry.

This must be put right so that we can have consistent, politically sensitive advocacy on social policy, the inter-governmental discussions progress. It might be best to give overall responsibility to the Deputy Prime Minister. Michael Heseltine could then exercise his leonine charm and experience in countering our current unedifying image and the limited regard for our views that goes with it.

The author is the CBI's principal adviser on employment policy

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16	Bearings	152	3	14	10.55	58	15	Atlantic Power	43
17	Brake	152	3	14	10.55	185	99	Cable News	179
18	Brake	152	3	14	10.55	186	99	Century	179
19	Camshaft	254	6	24	27.26	1276	59	Country Club	70
20	Camshaft	254	6	24	27.26	1277	59	Danville	124
21	Chassis int	226	8	32	24.55	118	53	Falconer	107
22	Chassis int	226	8	32	24.55	117	53	General	107
23	Chassis int	226	8	32	24.55	118	53	Manitowish	107
24	Chassis int	226	8	32	24.55	119	53	Manitowish	107
25	Chassis int	226	8	32	24.55	120	53	Manitowish	107
26	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	121	53	Manitowish	107
27	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	122	53	Manitowish	107
28	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	123	53	Manitowish	107
29	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	124	53	Manitowish	107
30	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	125	53	Manitowish	107
31	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	126	53	Manitowish	107
32	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	127	53	Manitowish	107
33	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	128	53	Manitowish	107
34	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	129	53	Manitowish	107
35	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	130	53	Manitowish	107
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37	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	132	53	Manitowish	107
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56	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	151	53	Manitowish	107
57	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	152	53	Manitowish	107
58	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	153	53	Manitowish	107
59	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	154	53	Manitowish	107
60	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	155	53	Manitowish	107
61	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	156	53	Manitowish	107
62	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	157	53	Manitowish	107
63	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	158	53	Manitowish	107
64	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	159	53	Manitowish	107
65	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	160	53	Manitowish	107
66	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	161	53	Manitowish	107
67	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	162	53	Manitowish	107
68	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	163	53	Manitowish	107
69	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	164	53	Manitowish	107
70	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	165	53	Manitowish	107
71	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	166	53	Manitowish	107
72	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	167	53	Manitowish	107
73	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	168	53	Manitowish	107
74	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	169	53	Manitowish	107
75	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	170	53	Manitowish	107
76	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	171	53	Manitowish	107
77	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	172	53	Manitowish	107
78	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	173	53	Manitowish	107
79	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	174	53	Manitowish	107
80	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	175	53	Manitowish	107
81	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	176	53	Manitowish	107
82	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	177	53	Manitowish	107
83	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	178	53	Manitowish	107
84	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	179	53	Manitowish	107
85	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	180	53	Manitowish	107
86	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	181	53	Manitowish	107
87	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	182	53	Manitowish	107
88	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	183	53	Manitowish	107
89	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	184	53	Manitowish	107
90	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	185	53	Manitowish	107
91	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	186	53	Manitowish	107
92	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	187	53	Manitowish	107
93	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	188	53	Manitowish	107
94	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	189	53	Manitowish	107
95	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	190	53	Manitowish	107
96	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	191	53	Manitowish	107
97	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	192	53	Manitowish	107
98	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	193	53	Manitowish	107
99	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	194	53	Manitowish	107
100	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	195	53	Manitowish	107
101	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	196	53	Manitowish	107
102	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	197	53	Manitowish	107
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108	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	203	53	Manitowish	107
109	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	204	53	Manitowish	107
110	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	205	53	Manitowish	107
111	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	206	53	Manitowish	107
112	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	207	53	Manitowish	107
113	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	208	53	Manitowish	107
114	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	209	53	Manitowish	107
115	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	210	53	Manitowish	107
116	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	211	53	Manitowish	107
117	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	212	53	Manitowish	107
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122	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	217	53	Manitowish	107
123	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	218	53	Manitowish	107
124	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	219	53	Manitowish	107
125	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	220	53	Manitowish	107
126	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	221	53	Manitowish	107
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128	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	223	53	Manitowish	107
129	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	224	53	Manitowish	107
130	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	225	53	Manitowish	107
131	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	226	53	Manitowish	107
132	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	227	53	Manitowish	107
133	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	228	53	Manitowish	107
134	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	229	53	Manitowish	107
135	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	230	53	Manitowish	107
136	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	231	53	Manitowish	107
137	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	232	53	Manitowish	107
138	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	233	53	Manitowish	107
139	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	234	53	Manitowish	107
140	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	235	53	Manitowish	107
141	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	236	53	Manitowish	107
142	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	237	53	Manitowish	107
143	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	238	53	Manitowish	107
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145	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	240	53	Manitowish	107
146	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	241	53	Manitowish	107
147	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	242	53	Manitowish	107
148	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	243	53	Manitowish	107
149	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	244	53	Manitowish	107
150	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	245	53	Manitowish	107
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153	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	248	53	Manitowish	107
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159	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	254	53	Manitowish	107
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163	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	258	53	Manitowish	107
164	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	259	53	Manitowish	107
165	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	260	53	Manitowish	107
166	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	261	53	Manitowish	107
167	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	262	53	Manitowish	107
168	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	263	53	Manitowish	107
169	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	264	53	Manitowish	107
170	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	265	53	Manitowish	107
171	Cylinder	172	2	8	12.17	266	53		

Queen's Bench Division

Fire brigade owe no actionable duty of care

John Munroe (Acrylics) Ltd v London Fire and Civil Defence Authority and Others
Before Mr Justice Roulger
[Judgment April 15]

No sufficient proximity or special relationship existed between a fire brigade and the owner of premises which might be on fire, such as to impose upon the fire brigade and vicariously, upon a fire authority, a duty at common law to respond to a call for assistance. Considerations of public policy militated against the imposition of such a duty.

Nor, merely by responding to an emergency call and visiting premises where a fire was burning, did the fire brigade put themselves into sufficient proximity to the building owner to impose a common law duty of care upon them, or assume a particular responsibility to those likely to be affected by the fire.

Mr Justice Roulger so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division, answering in the negative a preliminary issue of law, namely whether the first defendants, the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority, owed any duty of care to the plaintiffs, John Munroe (Acrylics) Ltd, in respect of damage by fire to their industrial premises at Unit 69, Weir Road, Wimbledon, on March 27, 1991.

In the same action the plaintiffs also sued the second and third defendants, Any Effects Ltd, in liquidation, and Thomas Charles Harris, trading as Any Effects.

Mr Ronald Walker, QC, and Mr Toby Hooper for the plaintiffs; Mr Michael de Navarro, QC, Mr Graham Eklund and Miss Jennifer Gray for the fire authority; the second and third defendants did not appear and were not represented.

MR JUSTICE ROULGER said that for the purpose of the preliminary hearing the agreed facts were that the second and third defendants deliberately caused an explosion on wasteland not far from the plaintiffs' premises, scattering a

shower of flaming debris over a fairly wide area. Small fires started separately by quite substantial distances fell on to the plaintiffs' premises and smoke came from a corner of the yard.

Four fire engines arrived in response to emergency calls, by which time the second defendants' staff had extinguished the burning debris and the fires on the wasteland and there was no visible evidence of any continuing conflagration.

Having looked around, the fire crews took the view that the fire was out and the danger had passed and left. They did not inspect Unit 69 which abutted one side of the wasteland, where there was combustible material to be seen. It was also likely that there would have been smouldering debris. No member of the plaintiffs' staff was present.

It was agreed by the parties that his Lordship should adopt the incremental approach to the development of novel categories of negligence culminating in *Caparo Industries plc v Dickman* [1990] 2 AC 603.

That approach involved consideration of (i) foreseeability of damage; (ii) whether sufficient proximity in the legal sense existed between the plaintiffs and the fire authority to cast upon the latter a duty to take care; and (iii) whether there were considerations of public policy whereby it would not be just, fair or reasonable to saddle the fire authority with such a duty.

It was agreed that there was no statutory duty on the fire brigade, although section 30 of the Fire Services Act 1947 gave a fire brigade the power to fight fires and section 1 required a fire authority to make efficient arrangements for dealing with calls for assistance.

Nor was it in issue that the first limb of the *Caparo* requirements was satisfied.

The plaintiffs submitted that within the statutory framework of a duty to make arrangements for dealing with calls for assistance, the fire brigade to respond to those calls; that the necessary legal

proximity was established whenever a call on the fire brigade was made and the endangered premises or persons identified; and that there was a companion duty to act with care in responding.

Their secondary position was that, even if there was no common law duty to respond, by responding and visiting the premises where the fire was burning, the fire brigade put themselves within the range of legal proximity to the owner of the premises and to the owners of neighbouring premises in the area of foreseeable danger from the fire.

The fire authority submitted that, like the police, the duty they owed was a public duty to the public at large and that neither the 1947 Act nor the circumstances in which they operated suggested that any duty was owed to private individuals to respond to emergency calls.

Their secondary position was that if a response was made a duty might arise where (i) they specifically assumed responsibility to an individual; (ii) they caused damage over and above that created by the original event; or (iii) they caused fresh damage.

Following the approach in *Caparo* it was necessary to consider what services or organisations and their operations were sufficiently comparable in kind so that the incremental inquiry referred to enabled one to say that a duty of common law should or should not be imposed on the fire brigade.

It was an essential feature of the duty that the duty postulated should be a duty to protect or assist the plaintiff from the harm done or threatened by third parties, or from some peril not brought about by any act or omission of the fire brigade itself.

The plaintiffs relied on *Arns v Merton London Borough Council* [1978] AC 728. His Lordship said, first, the local authority in that case was not reacting to peril created by someone else and was not in the same position as the emergency services. Second, there had been a distinct retreat from the extreme position reached in *Arns* and it

was to be doubted whether it could any longer be relied on as authority for the plaintiffs' contention.

There existed no sufficient proximity nor special relationship between fire brigades and the owner of any property that might be ablaze to cast upon them a personal duty at common law to respond to any call for assistance.

Where public policy was concerned, Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Templeman in *Hill v Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police* [1988] 1 AC 53, 63-64 listed the reasons why it was not in the public interest to saddle police officers with personal common law duties towards individuals affected by crimes which the officers were supposed to prevent.

Clerk & Lindsell on Torts (17th edition) (1995) p229, paragraph 715 listed the considerations which had influenced courts in deciding what was fair, just and reasonable.

Many of those considerations were applicable to the fire brigade and militated on the ground of public policy against the imposition of any common law duty.

1 No extra standard of care would be achieved;

2 A common law duty of care could lead to defensive firefighting;

3 The efficiency of the emergency services should be tested not in private litigation but by an inquiry instituted by national or local authorities responsible to the electorate;

4 The fact that a fire brigade acted for the collective welfare should be taken into account; and

5 The most important consideration was the floodgates argument.

It was a truism to say that we lived in an age of compensation. There seemed to be a growing belief that every misfortune, in pecuniary terms at least, had to be laid at someone else's door, and after every mishap, every tragedy, the cupped palms were outstretched for the solace of monetary compensation.

Fire brigades were often reacting to situations created by the hand of God or that of a lunatic or

a criminal. Pecuniary compensation was notoriously difficult to obtain from such persons, particularly the first.

The consequence was that the party suffering damage would be eager to fix his cannon against a defendant who would be in a position to meet a claim. The money to meet successful claims would have to be subscribed by the general public.

His Lordship adopted the reasoning of Lord Justice Staughton in *M (a Minor) v Newham London Borough Council* [1995] 2 AC 633, 679. The countervailing arguments for the imposition of a duty on the ground of public policy had nothing like the weight of the arguments against so doing.

On the subsidiary question whether, despite the absence of a duty to respond, there was sufficient proximity to the building owner when they did so respond, his Lordship started with the second *Caparo* requirement.

In *Alexandrou v Oxford* [1993] 4 All ER 328, not only did the police respond to a 999 call but, like the fire brigade in the present case, the premises and kept a periodic eye on them in the course of their duties.

There was no doubt, however, to bring them within the range of legal proximity.

Before the necessary proximity could be established something more, a special ingredient, had to be shown to demonstrate that besides the mere performance of their public duty the fire brigade, or other emergency services, undertook a personal responsibility to some individual during the course of their activity.

Since the position of the police force was properly comparable for present purposes with that of the fire brigade, *Alexandrou* was effectively binding on his Lordship.

That decided the preliminary question and it was unnecessary to examine the public policy argument in relation to the secondary question.

Solicitors: Hextall Erskine & Co; Mr S. J. F. Starling, Lambeth.

Silent telephone call can cause actual bodily harm

Regina v Ireland

Before Lord Justice Swinton Thomas, Mr Justice Tucker and Mr Justice Douglas Brown
[Judgment May 14]

A telephone call or a series of telephone calls, followed by silence, could constitute an assault causing actual bodily harm.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing the appeal of Robert Matthew Ireland against the Crown following pleas of guilty on February 6, 1995 at Newport (Gwent) Crown Court (Judge Prosser, QC) to three counts of assault occasioning actual bodily harm contrary to section 47 of the Offences Against the Person Act, 1861. On March 10, 1995 he was sentenced to a total of three years imprisonment.

Mr Philip Richards, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals for the appellants; Mr Christopher Llewellyn-Jones, QC, and Mr Roger Griffiths for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE SWINTON THOMAS, delivering the judgment of the court, said that the charges arose as a result of the appellant making a large number of unwanted telephone calls to three women. When the women answered the telephone there was silence. On occasions there were repeated calls over a relatively short period.

Each of the complainants was examined by a psychiatrist who said in his witness statement that the result of the repeated telephone calls was that each of them suffered significant psychological symptoms which included palpitations, difficulty in breathing, cold sweats, anxiety, inability to sleep, dizziness and stress.

An assault was any act by which a person intentionally or recklessly caused another to apprehend immediate and unlawful violence: see *R v Savage* [1992] 1 AC 696, 740. In *R v Chan* [1994] 1 WLR 689 it was held that "actual bodily harm" was capable of including psychiatric injury but not mere emotion such as fear, distress or panic.

In his Lordships' judgment, if the Crown could prove that the victims had sustained actual bodily harm, in this case psychological harm, and that the accused must have intended the victims to sustain such harm or have been

reckless as to whether they did sustain such harm, and that harm resulted from an act or acts of the appellant, namely telephone calls followed by silence, it was open to the jury to find that he had committed an assault.

As to immediacy, by using the telephone the appellant put himself in immediate contact with the victims and when the victims lifted the telephone they were placed in the consequences to which reference had been made.

Their Lordships' attention had been drawn to a number of cases concerning the definition of assault, some of them of some antiquity. It was of importance that an assault did not necessarily include a battery.

For many centuries it had been recognised that putting a person in fear might amount to an assault: see *Tuberville v Savage* [1669] 1 Mod 3.

In *Smith v Chief Superintendent, Woking Police Station* [1983] 76 Cr App R 234, an important case for the purpose of this appeal, the defendant had entered the ground of a private house and looked through the windows of the house occupied by the victim: she was terrified.

The defendant was charged under section 4 of the Vagrancy Act 1824 which provided: "Every person being found in an assault upon a garden for any unlawful purpose shall be deemed a vagabond."

In his judgment dismissing the appeal against conviction, Lord Justice Kerr had said [at p237]: "The question of law is whether there was evidence upon which the magistrates could conclude that the purpose of the defendant was to assault [the victim] and consequently 'an unlawful purpose' within the meaning of the Vagrancy Act 1824."

In the present case the defendant intended to frighten [the victim] and [the victim] was frightened. It was clearly a situation where the basis of the fear which was instilled in her was that she did not know what the defendant was going to do next, but that, whatever he might be going to do next, and sufficiently immediately for the purposes of the offence, was something of a violent nature."

Clearly the facts of *Smith's* case bore some similarity to the present case.

Barton v Armstrong [1969] 2 NSW 451 was a civil action in the Supreme Court of New South Wales. The action was based in part on an allegation of assault. Assaults were alleged to have been committed by telephone. Justice Taylor held that a threat made over the telephone was capable of amounting to an assault.

In the present case there were no threats but merely silence. In the circumstances in which those constant telephone calls were made to the victims, followed by silence, they were, in their Lordships' judgment, just as capable of being terrifying to the victims as if actual threats had been made.

Their Lordships agreed with the reasoning of Justice Taylor and in particular with his proposition that whether a particular act or particular acts amounted to an assault was a question of fact which would depend upon the circumstances.

In their Lordships' judgment the making of a telephone call or a series of telephone calls, followed by silence, was capable of amounting to a relevant act for the purposes of section 47 of the 1861 Act. The act consisted in the making of the telephone call and it did not matter whether words or silence ensued. As in the case of *Smith*, these victims would not know what the appellant was going to do next.

In most cases an assault was likely to involve direct physical violence to the body. However, the fact that the violence was inflicted indirectly causing psychological harm did not render the act to be any less an act of violence.

Nor, in their Lordships' judgment, was it necessary that there should be an immediate proximity between defendant and victim. Fear could be instilled as readily over the telephone as it could through the window.

Repetitious telephone calls of that nature were likely to cause the victims to apprehend immediate and unlawful violence. That the appellant so intended was inherent in his pleas of guilty. The conduct complained of fell squarely within the recognised definition of the offence.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Gwent.

Copying court registers removes statutory protection

Ex parte Creditnet Ltd and Others

Before Mr Justice Jonathan Parker
[Judgment May 8]

The wholesale removal of the contents of registers of winding-up petitions into the public domain undermined the protection afforded by the advertisement provisions of rule 4.11 of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925).

Mr Justice Jonathan Parker, sitting as Vice-Chancellor of the County Palatine of Lancaster, so held when refusing ex parte applications for leave to inspect and make multiple searches, pursuant to rule 7.28 of the 1986 Rules, of winding-up petitions maintained in the Liverpool District Registry, made by Creditnet Ltd, Austintel Ltd and Debtor Management Ltd.

Rule 7.28 provides: "(1) Subject as follows, the court's records of insolvency proceedings shall be open to inspection by any person. (2) If in the case of a person applying to inspect the records the registrar is not satisfied as to the propriety of the purpose for which inspection is required, he may refuse to allow it. The person may then apply forthwith and ex parte to the judge, who may refuse the inspection, or allow it on such terms as he thinks fit."

Mr Geoffrey Zelin for Creditnet Ltd; Mr Justin Rushbrooke for Austintel Ltd; Mr Colin Robertson, a director, in person for Debtor Management Ltd.

MR JUSTICE JONATHAN PARKER said that the Liverpool register consisted of a list of all winding-up petitions issued in the Liverpool District Registry, whether or not such petitions had been served or advertised. Similar registers were maintained in all county courts and on the central computer at the Companies Court in London.

Leave was sought to make multiple searches on a continuous basis. General liberty to make such multiple searches was withdrawn by the chief clerk at Liverpool on August 11, 1995 in the light of the district judges' concern that applicants were exploiting the opportunity to make multiple searches by, in effect, selling the information on the register to their customers and subscribers.

In a written decision dated January 11, 1996 District Judge Knopf indicated that those who could demonstrate a legitimate interest in particular insolvency proceedings would be allowed to inspect the record relating to that particular matter and that any applicant for inspection would only be allowed to search against named companies; hence the present applications.

After referring to an element of inconsistency in the various approaches adopted by different

courts in relation to multiple searches, to the provisions of rules 4.11 as to advertisement and 7.31 as to inspection and to suggestions advanced by counsel intended to establish a measure of consistency in the practice of courts throughout the country, his Lordship referred to the decision of Mr Justice Millett in *In re an Application under the Insolvency Rules 1986* [1994] 2 BCLC 104 on an application made by a Mr Kibiansky, which he adopted and accepted.

In that case, Mr Justice Millett had said that although the records of insolvency proceedings were available for public inspection, the registrar had to be satisfied that the inspection was required for a legitimate purpose. That purpose was "to enable persons who have a legitimate interest in a particular insolvency proceeding to discover what has taken place".

The purpose for which each of the applicants sought leave to inspect the Liverpool register was predominantly that of abstracting the entirety of the information entered on the register and making such information available to its customers and subscribers on commercial terms.

The carrying into effect of that purpose resulted, and was intended to result, in the applicant maintaining a duplicate of the register maintained by the court

but with the difference that whereas the court's register was subject to the court's power to control inspection, conferred by rule 7.28(2), the duplicate register was not under the court's control. That difference was crucial.

The wholesale removal of the register's contents into the public domain, by the use of multiple searches, substantially undermined the provisions of rule 4.11 as to advertisement. To anyone subscribing to the service offered by any of the applicants, advertisement in the *London Gazette* was an irrelevance.

Advertisement was not merely a formality. In considering whether and in what circumstances the fact of the presentation of a winding-up petition should become public knowledge, a balance had to be struck between the legitimate interests of a company's creditors, or other parties, particularly banks, dealing or proposing to deal with a company, and the interest of a company in having an opportunity

to defend itself against winding-up petitions which were misconceived, or were based on alleged indebtedness which was bona fide disputed by the company on substantial grounds.

In his Lordships' judgment that balance was struck by rule 4.11. The provision that a petition should not be advertised for at least seven business days after service afforded just such an opportunity, although not a complete one since an individual search would reveal the fact of presentation of a petition that might not yet have been advertised.

The objection to multiple searches was that they operated to neutralise the protection afforded in practice by the rule.

His Lordship concluded that none of the applicants had demonstrated a legitimate interest and the applications were dismissed.

Solicitors: Gruber Garratt, Ashford-Lynde, Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners.

Photocopy assistance for the court

Practice Statement (Court of Appeal: Authorities)

Parties providing photocopies of authorities on which they intended to rely would greatly enhance the benefit to the court if they lodged with the skeleton argument a list of those authorities and the photocopies, and if they lodged with each of those authorities a photocopy of the text of the authority which they intended to rely on.

The court would not usually grant leave to cite unreported cases unless assured that the particular transcript (a) contained a relevant statement of principle not found in reported authority and (b) was not cited because of the verbiage used or to illustrate the application of established principle.

Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, so stated on May 15 sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Aldous.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said as provided in *Practice Direction (Court of Appeal: Citation of authorities)* [1995] 1 WLR 1096 parties to appeals in the Civil Division of the Court of Appeal were not required to provide photocopies of the authorities on which they relied.

2 Where, however, as was often the case, one or other party chose to provide photocopies of the principal authorities, including text-book extracts and academic articles, relied on, the benefit to the court was very greatly enhanced if:

(i) a list of those authorities, and the photocopies, were lodged with the skeleton argument so that they could be used by the members of the court when preparing for the hearing;

(ii) counsel liaised with each other so as to ensure, so far as possible, that the authorities provided were not duplicated.

The photocopies provided needed only to include, for each law report, the heading and the pages containing the particular passages relied on, and for each text-book and article, the title pages and the pages containing the particular passages relied on.

3 Leave to cite unreported cases "public" which materially affected the reasonable comfort and convenience of a class of her Majesty's subjects" and Lord Justice Denning who had said: "A public nuisance is a nuisance which is so widespread in its range or so indiscriminate in its effect that it would not be reasonable to expect one person to take proceedings on his own responsibility to put a stop

circumstances in which the murder had been committed or it might manifest itself in some other conduct of which the murder formed part such as the blowing up of a building or a hijacked aeroplane.

In neither case was it necessary that the murder be witnessed by others: suffice it that the circumstances in which it took place were intended to create fear in those who were the objects of the terror when they became aware of the facts.

The paragraph did not apply to a murder committed with the sole intent of killing the victim whereby fear happened to be created in those who saw it take place or heard of it.

There was no evidence to suggest that the appellant and his colleague had any intention other than to kill the deceased. The fear in the bystanders was created by the killing and nothing more. It followed that the appellant did not commit a capital murder for the purposes of section 2(1)(f).

Solicitors: Simons Muirhead & Burton; Charles Russell.

MR OWEN DAVIES and Mr Raza Hussain for the appellant; Mr James Guthrie, QC, for the Crown.

LORD JAUNCEY, giving the judgment of the board, said that something more than mere consequential frightening of the victim or occasional bystanders was required under section 2(1)(f). There to be a double intent on the part of the murderer, namely an intent to murder and an intent to create a state of fear in the public or a section thereof.

The intent to create a state of fear could be demonstrated by the mere

defence of the court.

MR JUSTICE TUCKER, delivering the judgment of the court, said that over a period of five and half years, between September 1988 and May 1994 the appellant had made obscene telephone calls on hundreds of occasions to at least 13 different women in the South Cumbria area.

There was no doubt that the effect of those calls was such as to cause nuisance to the recipient. The question was whether it was a public nuisance.

The offence of public nuisance was defined in *Attorney-General v P. Y. A. Quarries Ltd* [1957] 2 QB 169, 184, 191 by Lord Justice Romer who had said: "any nuisance is 'public' which materially affected the reasonable comfort and convenience of a class of her Majesty's subjects" and Lord Justice Denning who had said: "A public nuisance is a nuisance which is so widespread in its range or so indiscriminate in its effect that it would not be reasonable to expect one person to take proceedings on his own responsibility to put a stop

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Solicitors: Simons Muirhead & Burton; Charles Russell.

Public nuisance in series of obscene calls to women

Regina v Johnson (Anthony Thomas)

Before Lord Justice Swinton Thomas, Mr Justice Tucker and Mr Justice Douglas Brown
[Judgment May 14]

Making obscene telephone calls on many occasions to numerous women was conduct capable of constituting a public nuisance since it materially affected the reasonable comfort and convenience of a section of the public.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Anthony Thomas Johnson against his conviction in September 1995 at Preston Crown Court (Judge Andrew, QC and a jury) of public nuisance. He was sentenced to 240 hours community service and was also ordered to pay £500 towards prosecution costs.

Mr Richard Haworth, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Leslie Hull for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE TUCKER, delivering the judgment of the court, said that over a period of five and half years, between September 1988 and May 1994 the appellant had made obscene telephone calls on hundreds of occasions to at least 13 different women in the South Cumbria area.

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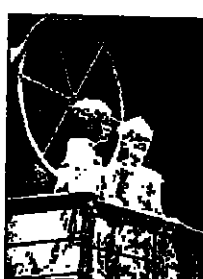
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circumstances in which the murder had been committed or it might manifest itself in some other conduct of which the murder formed part such as the blowing up of a building or a hijacked aeroplane.



MUSIC

Meet Kurt Masur, the man who turned the New York Phil into a model for the 21st century



OPERA 1

Glyndebourne revives Trevor Nunn's "Dames at Sea" version of *Così fan tutte*, but it doesn't wear well

THE TIMES ARTS



OPERA 2

... and problems mar Opera North's *Marriage of Figaro* as Caroline Gawn's Mozart staging loses the plot



TOMORROW

Mike Leigh brings his new film *Secrets & Lies* to Britain, fresh from its triumph at the Cannes festival

They were one tough orchestra, but the German guy on the podium was tougher. Richard Morrison tells the story

How Kurt conquered New York

Not many years ago a visit by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra would have been greeted with an indifference bordering on disdain. The orchestra was perceived as being an ill-blended ensemble of hard-boiled players whose chief delight lay in making life hell for conductors and their own management.

What a difference a change at the top makes. Today the world looks to New York not just for refined music-making — though the orchestra is playing more beautifully than for years — but also as a model of how orchestras generally might prosper in the 21st century. And it is all attributed to an alliance between two of the toughest characters in classical music.

Deborah Borda, now in her fifth season as the NYPO's executive director, has brought tremendous flair to the task of living up to the music-making — and the audience — at Lincoln Centre. True, she has a \$28 million budget; but just 2 per cent of that is public subsidy. She is heavily reliant on box office and private patronage, which makes the scale of the NYPO's "outreach" work even more remarkable.

And the other figure? "This was the challenge of my life," says the conductor, Kurt Masur. "I was convinced that I would work at the Leipzig Gewandhaus until the end of my so-called career. Instead, I now have two great orchestras: New York and Leipzig."

Masur became music director of the NYPO in 1991. It should not have been a surprise appointment: in its 153-year history, the orchestra has displayed an almost masochistic penchant for stern European

maestros, notably Mahler, Toscanini, Mitropoulos and Boulez. But the appointment did surprise many. Masur had hardly any reputation in America, and he was already over 60.

He did, however, have one thing going for him. In the political turmoil leading up to German reunification he had somehow transformed himself from being a staunch pillar of the communist establishment into a popular hero, throwing open the doors of the venerable Gewandhaus for political meetings, and supporting his 180-strong orchestra when, as one man, they tore up their party cards. That was a story which played extremely well in the American press. And it also fitted Masur's grand style of music-making: all big gestures, passion and profundity. The New York critics hailed a genuine musical heavyweight.

But what probably clinched the job for Masur was his iron discipline. The prospect of any orchestra taking him for a ride is about as likely as shrimps ganging up on a shark. For all his musical finesse, Masur exudes a kind of brute psychological strength. You don't want to cross him.

He puts it down to experience. "I have always learnt from orchestras," he says demurely. "From the English I learnt professionalism. From the Italians, impatience. From the Russians, eruptions. From the Germans, tradition."

So do orchestras like to be bossed around? "They like to be inspired!" Masur replies with a smile that would chill a volcano. "In New York they get sullen only if a conductor shows off or if he doesn't know what he wants. If he does



"We had to find a new co-operation with the Philharmonic players, and then make the people of New York feel that this is their orchestra," Kurt Masur says

know, there is no limit to their flexibility. They give me a Brahms Second Symphony so full of poetry that it is like being in Leipzig. Then Soli comes, and they give him the harshness of the typical American orchestra. If he wants it, that is."

Masur and Borda knew that their first task would be to tackle the "attitude" of the musicians, then restore the city's pride in its Philharmonic. "Zubin Mehta [Masur's predecessor] had done wonderful work collecting great players, but when I was here as guest conductor I felt that the orchestra got frustrated doing their duty and never being asked if they liked it or not. We had to find a new co-operation with the players, and then make the people of New York feel that this is their orchestra, and

that it really wants to take care of their musical needs."

Masur established twice-yearly forums with the audience. "When I first suggested it, the orchestra trembled. They feared bad questions, insults, demonstrations. Nothing like that happened. People were pleased that we were trying to make things better."

Then he and Borda started to revolutionise the pattern of concerts. "The problems weren't Zubin's fault, but there was a long, long period without change. There were too few outstanding moments in every season. People were bored."

The new management inaugurated Rush Hour Concerts, designed to catch young professionals on their way home. Then came

"casual concerts" ("bring your shopping bags") and a huge increase in educational work. "These things make a big city seem small," Masur says. Next he plans to pinch a great British innovation. "My idea for New York in the summer is to start Proms, like in London. There is no better audience in the world than the Proms audience. So enthusiastic, yet so educated."

Those who had Masur pigeon-holed as an Austro-German traditionalist have also been surprised by the vigour with which he has promoted new American music, particularly the sort that crosses the classical/popular divide. "I have had my first encounter with the jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis," Masur says. "At first he didn't want to write anything for the Philhar-

monic, but now he has agreed. He's gone away to learn how to write a symphony. You can't ignore this crossover in America; you are confronted by it every day. It may be the way forward for American composition."

More controversial, perhaps, is Masur's determination to expand the NYPO's repertoire to the unsanctified cultural jungle of New York — but so it has proved. "I feel so refreshed by what's going on here that I am not talking about retirement," Masur says. "But I would go now if I felt the Philharmonic was not progressing. I'm not interested in standstill."

Masur turns 70 next year. How long will he remain in New York? The Philharmonic's relationships with previous music directors have often ended in tears. But in Masur a tough orchestra may have met its match. Staying at the top of the musical pyramid in East Germany for 20 years may not seem like perfect training for survival in the unsubsidised cultural jungle of New York — but so it has proved. "I feel so refreshed by what's going on here that I am not talking about retirement," Masur says. "But I would go now if I felt the Philharmonic was not progressing. I'm not interested in standstill."

● Kurt Masur and the NYPO play two BBC Proms at the Albert Hall, on August 20 and 21 (booking details 0171-589 8212)

DEGAS BEYOND IMPRESSIONISM: DAY ONE

Richard Cork begins his selection of highlights from the National Gallery's exhibition

Degas had known the subject of this grand yet haunting portrait — Hélène Rouart in her father's study — since her babyhood. His friendship with her father, the wealthy industrialist Henri Rouart, began during their school-days in Paris.

As well as making a fortune by inventing an ice-making machine, Rouart was a discerning collector. Hence the pictures, statues and embroidery surrounding Hélène as she stands behind one of the family chairs.

The daughter rests her pale, elegant hands on its sturdy wooden back with affection. She is clearly accustomed to being in her father's study, and may well relish the company of the works of art he has accumulated.

But the sadness in her blanched face is unmistakable. She seems downcast, and the conspicuous emptiness of the chair reinforces

her sense of isolation. Hélène's mother died in 1886, the year when Degas probably began this portrait. The family's bereavement must have affected the mood of the painting, for the vulnerable Hélène always strangely oppressed.

This is a portrait of a young woman whose love for her parents seems to be countered by a feeling of claustrophobia. She appears to be hemmed in by Rouart's possessions, and her gaze is directed at the Egyptian funerary statues standing on his desk. Marooned in their glass cases, these mournful figures mirror Hélène's own sense of confinement and loss.

● Degas: Beyond Impressionism opens at the National Gallery today and continues until Aug 26 (tickets from First Call, 0171-420 0000)

● Tomorrow, Richard Cork discusses *Dancer with bouquets* (c. 1890-95)



"A sense of confinement and loss": Hélène Rouart in her father's study (c.1886-95), National Gallery

OPERA: Flawed Mozart stagings from Opera North and Glyndebourne

Plot is buried in the garden...

SO LONG as it stays within the walls of the Almavivas' castle, Caroline Gawn's *Figaro* for Opera North spins along with verve. Her Mozart is good-humoured, drawing plenty of laughs in Amanda Holden's translation, crisp but never coarse. Her cast is fleet-footed and sharply drawn right down to the minor roles.

But once into the garden of Act IV Gawn loses the plot. Alice Purcell, whose sets had so far been just about serviceable, offers little more than

The Marriage of Figaro
Palace, Manchester

some cheap cut-out trees. This is no place for mistaken identities in the dark, let alone forgiveness at midnight.

On opening night there was an additional problem. At half-time Clive Bayley, the *Figaro*, was announced as having a bronchial infection

and only just made it to the end. William Dazeley's Count, dark in looks and timbre, commanded the stage, using angry bluster to keep the lid on the pot of rebellious employees seething beneath him. Linda Kitcher's Susanna, vivacious and capricious, was likely to be a handful for any man, master or servant. Janis Kelly, the Countess, handled both her arias with great musicianship. She made it clear that, once over her melancholy, there was plenty

of fight left in Rosina. Alice Coote's offish Cherubino frisked around all the women on stage. Marcellina (Angela Hickey) always excepted. The voice needs to soften a bit, but plenty of promise is there. Andrew Shore, that master of disguise, turned Bartolo into a vengeful, bald-pated Kojak. And there was a notably sympathetic Antonio from Bruce Budd. Richard Farnes conducted briskly.

JOHN HIGGINS

... and lost at sea

AFTER the heavenly flights of *Theodora*, down to earth with a bump, Trevor Nunn's "Dames at Sea" version of *Così fan tutte*, first seen five years ago and all-too-faithfully revived by Michael McCarthy, does not wear well. The piece is all artifice, and Nunn's attempt, via Maria Bjornson's ingenious shipboard decor, to set it in a naturalistic framework raises far more problems than it solves.

And the perceptible whiff of misogyny will not go away. Fiordiligi and Dorabella are played as a couple of feather-brained good-time girls, deliciously admitted, but are their activities really interesting enough to detain us in a theatre for three hours? This must be the most trivial, cynical, unrewarding reading of the work in recent experience.

But even that wasn't the main problem on Monday. Franz Welser-Möst's conducting was genuinely, deeply mystifying, and not just because the standard of ensemble was way below normal Glyndebourne standards. The London Philharmonic could play this score gracefully in their sleep, and Welser-Möst must have worked hard and long to elicit such blunt phrasing, dogged rhythms and wooden articulation from them. There was scarcely a musical smile all evening.

The poor singers had to

Così fan tutte
Glyndebourne

bear alone the responsibility of conveying at least some of the work's content to the audience. Susan Graham (Dorabella) and Simon Keenlyside (Guglielmo) did best, the former bubbling over with *joie de vivre*, the latter managing to suggest that something was happening inside his head, and his baritone grows juicier by the month. John Mark Ainsley sounded out of sorts as Ferrando, and was not helped by lack of support from the pit: Lillian Watson's classic Despina is kept under wraps in Nunn's "black" reading; Jake Gardner suggested Don Alfonso-as-philosopher with slow delivery of the recitatives, and Don Alfonso-as-Mercury went missing.

But the Glyndebourne debut of the Norwegian Solveig Kringelborn (Fiordiligi) was an occasion for great rejoicing. She is a sort of syllabub soprano: the basic sound is thick cream, but with plenty of zest of lemon to make it individual. It's a big voice, with meaty low notes and fluent ease in coloratura. She's a lovely artist, and I trust return engagements will come thick and fast.

RODNEY MILNES

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CHOICE 1

A London showing for David Bantley's dance version of Thomas Hardy

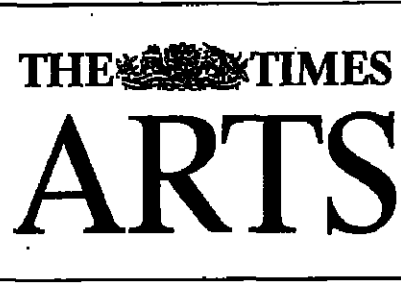
VENUE: Tonight at the Royal Opera House



CHOICE 2

Liza Goddard heads the cast in a new staging of Mansfield Park

VENUE: Tonight at the Chichester Festival Theatre



THEATRE 1

A.R. Gurney's new *Sylvia* is a piece of fluffy nonsense, even with Zoë Wanamaker doing her best as a dog



THEATRE 2

Sarah Kane piles on the atrocities in *Phaedra's Love*, her contemporary take on the myth of King Theseus's wife

THEATRE: A West End bow for A.R. Gurney's latest; plus, strong stuff from Sarah Kane

Two legs bad, four legs too cute

Sylvia
Apollo

Lovers of dogs are likely to love this play. Those who merely like the wretched creatures could well like it. Those who are indifferent might be persuaded to take a look because Zoë Wanamaker plays the dog, while those of us who consider that dogs and their owners should all be marooned on Spitzbergen may decide that the wisest course is to stay away.

Watching humans playing animals is an activity generally restricted to winter, when the costumes for Nana, King Rat and the pantomime horse are brought out of the basket and given their annual eight weeks in the spotlight. This being so, I have to admit that the American playwright A.R. Gurney has conceived something unusual in writing the character of his Central Park stray for an actress. Against this achievement, of course, lies the fact that he cheats most dreadfully in allowing the dog to converse with his new master and be understood.

The man's distinctly unenthusiastic wife can also exchange unpleasantness with Sylvia — the name (had you guessed?) of the dog — who behaves in almost all respects like a permissible live-in mistress who just happens not to be allowed to sit on the furniture. Greg (Robin Ellis, playing a person though looking doggy) is a Wall Street trader having a rough time with his boss. When he goes wandering nocturnally in the park one afternoon, he is shocked by a dog who walks into his life and from



Canine caper: Maria Aitken, Zoë Wanamaker and Robin Ellis, an eternal triangle with three sides and eight legs

that moment on, there is no way they will be parted. "I may puke, Greg," says wife Kate (Maria Aitken) — and those are my sentiments when obliged to watch this fudgespined man ignoring work, friends and the feelings of his spouse in order to connect, as he puts it, with something real.

Gurney puts forward the notion that Greg is menopausal. The children, number unknown, have left home for college and seemingly never

visit their parents, for we learn nothing more about them. Greg and Kate, who teaches Eng Lit, have moved back to the city but, while she is briskly moving forward into a new life, he is subsiding into nothing in particular. Sylvia gives him something to live for. However...

The human characters are woefully two-dimensional, bereft of any past, only faintly concerned with any present other than what bears upon their relationship with the

dog. True, the play was probably never intended as more than a *Jeu d'esprit*, a piece of fluffy nonsense floating on the premise that an actress should play a pet. And while I enjoyed Aitken's way with throwaway dismay, the production's only significant purpose is, indeed, to show how cunningly Wanamaker acts canine.

She has a chin-out gesture of the head which is realistically that of a dog longing to rest its dribbling dewlap on a human knee. Her sideways twitch,

quick trot, steady gaze sliding away as attention wanders, all are observed and executed neatly. But of course, cuteness smoothes everything because Gurney makes her give human female comments on canine female instincts.

Michael Blakemore directs this silliness with understanding of how a dog would behave if it looked like Zoë Wanamaker and was able to quote Homer.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Bloodbath at the court of copulation

Phaedra's Love
Gate, WI

Now Kane kicks off the Gate's season — called *New Plays, Ancient Sources* — with a production of *Phaedra's Love*, her contemporary take on the myth of King Theseus's wife and her taboo-breaking passion for her stepson Hippolytus. The tale has been reworked through the centuries by Euripides, Seneca and Racine. More recently there was a version by Silvio Purcaro and before that, one by Tony Harrison, who set *Phaedra Britannica* in colonial India.

Kane makes radical changes. She locates the action here and now, or perhaps in the near future. Her imaginary British royal family is at an all-time moral low. Seneca's creeping aristocratic decadence has become chronic. Cas Harkins's Hippolytus is a far cry from Euripides's fiercely vir-

al, Diana-worshipping hunter.

This prince, in a far worse state than the British heir in Peter Whelan's *Divine Right*, is an unwashed layabout. Hopelessly depressed and bitterly disillusioned by a past girlfriend, he stares at the news on TV, stuffs himself, has sex with anybody willing. He is godless, wrecking the monarchy's reputation: a man on self-destruct, looking for thrills.

He knows very well that he is desired by his stepmother, a psychologically messed-up queen, additively obsessed and exploited. There is no shocking confession and vehement rejection, just a coldly casual conversation and quick gratification.

The adolescent's stringency remains in his brutal honesty. After Phaedra's suicide and accusation of rape, he will

ingly embrace punishment.

Kane's version of the story is liberally splashed with the F-word but, for her, relatively constrained with only two oral sex scenes in an hour. But then our royals meet their collective end in an extravaganza of grisliness: mobbed, raped, castrated, skewered, slashing their own throats.

This is not totally gratuitous. Euripides's play, besides its modern universal bleakness, was an antique forerunner of video nasties. The messenger would go into graphic detail relating the Prince's chariot crash, attacked by a monstrous bull, entangled in reins, smashed against rocks.

Kane tries a no-bull approach. Speech is terse, truncated. Violence does not reach us by word of mouth. It is in our faces, almost literally as the cast twitches between clumps of seats.

The trouble is that the lashings of stage violence are not really shocking, just hard to believe. From where I was sitting, the most appalling aspect of this show was the inattention to sightlines. Phaedra might as well have gone down on Hippolytus in the wings.

Harkins charges up a hard role. Catherine Cusack is a strong, elite half-sister. The extras are weak. Philippa Williams's Phaedra lacks inner torment.

That said, Kane can be sharp when dealing with today's domestic squalor and despair. She is also witty. She surely slips her tongue in her cheek when the expected atrocities pile in at the very end. The masochistic Hippolytus, having said farewell to his genitals, dryly breathes his last. "If only," he says, "there could have been more moments like this."

KATE BASSETT

LONDON

DEBAS: Two editions open today. In the Sanjour Wing, *Debas*: Beyond Impressionism is devoted to the late, innovative work of the artist, including oils, pastels and sculptures, on loan from public and private collections around the world. Over in the Sunley Room, *Debas* as a collector brings together examples of the artist's vast collection, which features paintings, prints and drawings, including works by Ingres, Manet, Delacroix and Gauguin. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5DN (0171-639 3331). Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, (Meds to 5pm). Sun 12pm-6pm. Until August 26. Tickets from First Call (0171-420 0000 — booking fee).

A NOVEL BALLET: Birmingham Royal Ballet's spring season at the Royal Opera House, London, will feature the *Musical Comedy*. Based on Thomas Hardy's tragic love story, the production, choreographed by the company's artistic director David Bintley, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 011-304 4000. Until August 26. Tickets from First Call (0171-420 0000 — booking fee).

SOLOMON: The Festival Hall (7.30pm) is the venue for a performance of Handel's oratorio *Solomon*. St David's School of Music, with the Bach Choir and English Chamber Orchestra, with Charles Brett in the title role, supported by Judith Howarth and Rita Cullis, and John Mark Ainsley. Also at 7.30pm, the

CHAPTER TWO: Tom Conti and Sharon Gless play unattached New Yorkers whiffing towards each other in Neil Simon's comedy. Not his best. Gaiety Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5055). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm, mats Thurs 3pm, Sat 2pm.

DEFINITELY DORIS: Revue-style musical celebrating the life and songs of Miss Day. Cast of five. High sugar content. King's Head, 119 Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1919). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat 2pm, 3.30pm. Until May 26.

THE END OF THE EARTH: Samantha Bond, Michael Sheen and Tom Hopper in David Lauder's puzzle, set in the Balkans and to do with sacrifice, freedom and the life. National Coliseum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-639 2292). Tonight-Mon, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. In rep.

GOOD BONES: Nick Cohen's adaptation of the Margaret Atwood novel, containing Adam and Eve figures, genes, sex and cooking. Southwark Playhouse, Southwark, SE1 (0171-732 2121). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until June 1.

JULIUS CAESAR: Christopher Benjamin plays the caesarian, with John Nettles and Julia Gurnea. Gaiety Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5055). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. In rep.

NEW RELEASES

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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Mazzy

Purell Room presents *Pelleas*, an evening of music and dance-entertainment performed by the musicians and dancers of Gwent Polish folk band. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5DN (0171-639 3331). Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, (Meds to 5pm). Sun 12pm-6pm. Until August 26. Tickets from First Call (0171-420 0000 — booking fee).

CHICHESTER: Tony Britton and Liza Goddard play *Mansfield Park*. Based on Thomas Hardy's tragic love story, the production, choreographed by the company's artistic director David Bintley, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 011-304 4000. Until August 26. Tickets from First Call (0171-420 0000 — booking fee).

GLASGOW: Scottish Opera continues its residency at the Theatre Royal with two performances of Verdi's magnificent opera *La Traviata*. Glasgow Royal Opera House, Glasgow, Scotland. Tickets from First Call (0171-420 0000 — booking fee).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only

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CIRCUS

Once it was all motorbikes and chainsaws, now it's the nightmare of technology as Archaos hits London



DANCE

William Forsythe continues to exhilarate and infuriate as his Frankfurt Ballet visits Paris

THE TIMES ARTS



JAZZ

A lap of honour for Tony Coe, the first non-American to win the jazz world's most prestigious prize



OFFER

Enjoy a night out to remember as The Times Theatre Club visits the musical legend Miss Saigon

JAZZ

Subtlety back in the pink

BECAUSE Canterbury-born saxophonist-clarinetist Tony Coe was the first non-American to win the jazz world's most prestigious prize, the Jazzpar award, in 1992, his current UK tour has an air of a lap of honour about it.

The stated purpose of the \$35,000 Danish prize is to feed the creativity of an internationally known, fully active, but under-recognised jazz figure (a description which might have been specifically formulated for Coe); the richness, depth and sheer sophistication of this performance with pianist John Horler and bassist Malcolm Creech more than vindicated the prize committee's aim.

Many saxophonists would have used the trio's opener, the familiar Ellington classic *Do Nothing Till You Hear from Me* as a gentle warm-up number. Coe's first tenor solo, by contrast, contained all the hallmarks of his mature style: the rhapsodic elegance, the deceptively adventurous rhythmic and harmonic subtlety, the bruised, breathy lyricism hardening to a passionate eloquence. The subsequent clarinet feature, too, dedicated to an erstwhile employer, Edmundo Ros, demonstrated why Coe is generally held to be one of the instru-

Tony Coe
Purcell Room

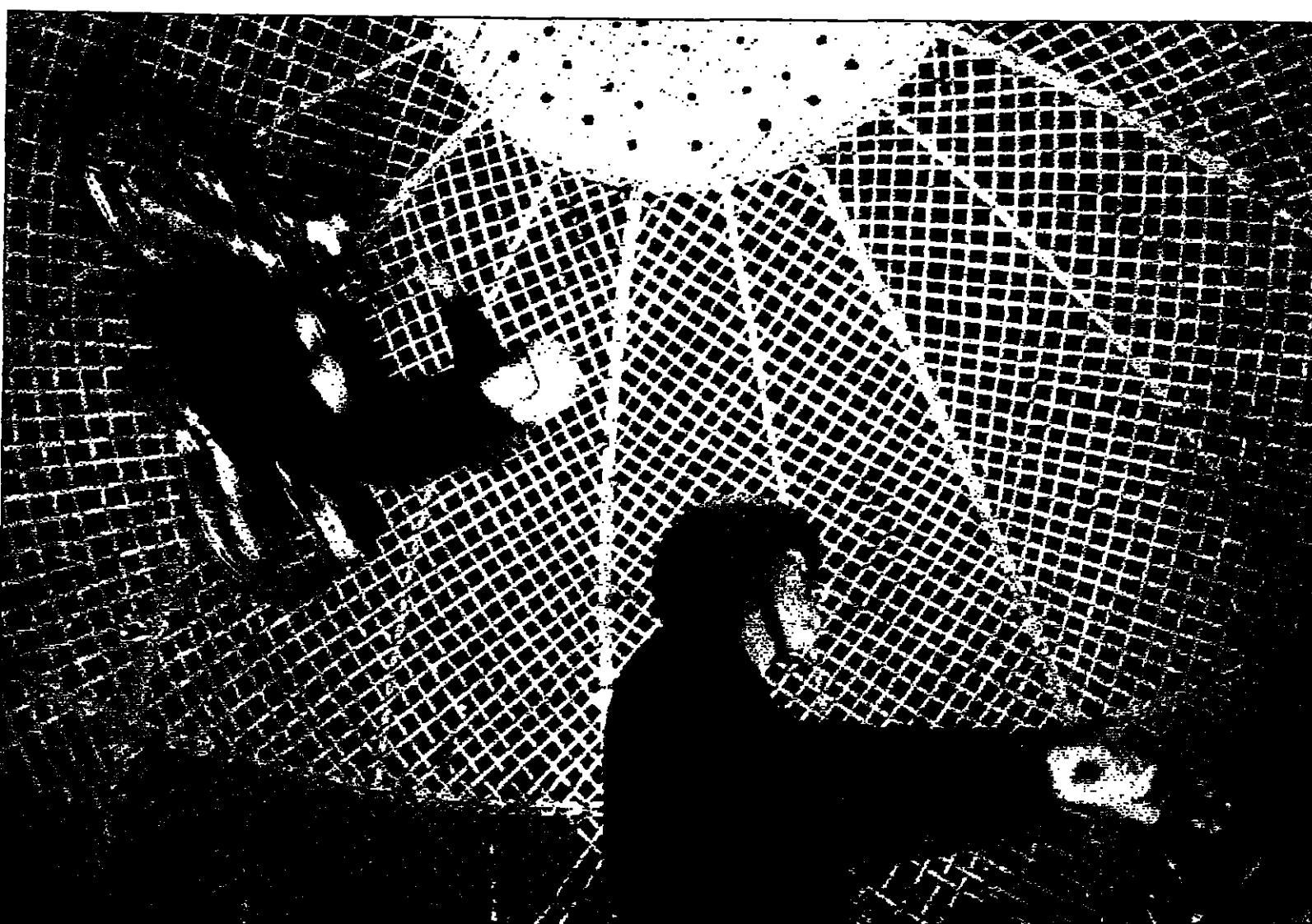
ment's finest jazz practitioners. To a vigorously jaunty theme, Coe brought all the buoyancy and grace associated with pioneers of the instrument such as Johnny Dodds and Sidney Bechet, but contrived to overlay it with an almost brooding intensity courtesy of the harmonic complexities of a much later jazz age.

Such an ability to assimilate a wide variety of apparently incompatible stylistic elements into an instantly recognisable personal sound is entirely characteristic of Coe: his career includes a five-year stint with the archetypal UK mainstream band led by Humphrey Lyttelton, but also embraces gigs with the dozen of free improvisers, guitarist Derek Bailey, as well as collaborations with the European art music chamber group *Matrix* formed by fellow clarinetist Alan Hacker.

Moving from producing what he himself described as "yet another footnote to the Coleman Hawkins version" of *Body and Soul* through an absorbingly multicoloured soprano rendition of Ellington's *Blue Rose* to a tenor-led tango, and finishing with a teasing original blues, is thus all in a night's work for Coe. By the time he had been cheered back to the stage for a delightful encore (*Francis Boland's November Girl*) it was even possible to imagine that he might one day be as celebrated for performances like these as for providing the saxophone playing in the *Pink Panther* films.

CHRIS PARKER

Archaios, the company that lit a rocket under circus, is back. Andy Lavender reports



Welcome to the Globe of Death: "The two motorcyclists ride the globe simultaneously, making perilous intersections at more than 50 mph"

Re-entry of the gladiators

You might remember Archaios. When the French circus company first came to Britain in 1988, the publicity played up the more brazen innovations — the motorbikes, chainsaws and exploding cars. Behind these, however, was a time-honoured objective: to delight the public with acts of outrageous skill and daring.

Over the next few years municipal authorities from Bristol to Edinburgh fretted over the company's apparent transgressions against taste and public safety. Archaios, meanwhile, continued to redefine modern circus for adoring audiences across the world.

Success can be heady. Archaios quickly incorporated a big-top firm, a transportation business and a video production outfit, and had two shows touring simultaneously. When, in 1991, the empire collapsed, it seemed almost inevitable. Archaios was always destined to be a glorious, transient French folly.

Except that Pierrat Pillot Bidon, the company's artistic director, and his accomplice Guy Carrara have returned to the great adventure. Their new *Game Over* opens in London today. It represents a more sophisticated Archaios, and therefore another stage in the evolution of circus. The big difference — one which addresses the Achilles' heel of circus-style shows — is that a coherent concept runs through the entire production.

Carrara explains that he and Bidon hardly watched television for nearly a decade. In 1991 they were able to slump back into the armchair. "We look at TV, and we see the evolution of TV," Carrara says. He recalls his surprise and distaste at the extent to which "journal-TV", as he calls it, had trespassed into real life. "The US Marines in

Somalia, with the camera on the beach — crazy. And I see the hypnotic relation between people and TV. They don't go out, and they see all the world through the little TV."

An idea for a show emerged when the duo visited an amusement arcade filled with young people in thrall to the many video screens. "We see 'Game Over!', 'Game Over!', 'Game Over!'," So I say to Pierrat, "OK, journal-TV is just like a video game." And we have a new concept.

They also had a new approach, "scripting" the show carefully in advance and developing it over a couple of years. Directed by Carrara, *Game Over* opened in Marseilles last autumn. In Paris recently it had rough edges after an eight-month interlude, but it should be more polished on its arrival in London. It begins with a group of people sleeping on bits of cardboard on the stage. They are cleared by truncheon-wielding police and piled into the back of a lorry. The patrol perhaps works for the insidiously powerful "Infinite TV". Everything which follows is a part of the output of this futuristic broadcaster.

A cheerfully bland TV presenter, one Alex Taylor, looms large on the huge screen at the back of the stage to inform viewers of the time (it is always 15:38) and introduce the next segment of programming, which is then played out

through film inserts, video effects and live performance. In some instances the captive performers are goaded into action by the TV crew, which then relays their exploits on video monitors. The action is driven along by a pulsating dance-music soundtrack by Laidup and Laidup, underscoring the show's club-culture ambience.

Amid the exhaust fumes and flame-throwers, Archaios was renowned for the skills of its performers. This show maintains the tradition. In a beautifully serene routine, five aerial acrobats twist themselves in huge strands of white material hanging from the grid. Former members of the French Olympic trampoline team perform a dazzling basketball routine. And, for those nostalgic for the whiff of gasoline, the show's climax is

provided by its Globe of Death riders.

This remarkable act comes after Taylor breezily announces "War News". A square opens in the backdrop. A large globe, made of laticed metalwork, is wheeled forward. It contains two motorbikes. One by one they traverse the inside of their cage, first swinging around in a horizontal circle, then crossing vertically. Both bikes then ride the globe simultaneously, making perilous intersections at more than 50 mph.

Inspecting the globe in the cold light of the next morning, this act seems even more foolhardy. The structure itself is a network of rusty slats with missing screws and the odd loose strut. Only a madman would ride a bike around it, let alone allow anyone else in there with him. The Varanne

brothers, Philippe and Gerard, are those madmen.

The Globe of Death is an established daredevil act which, in the past, has sadly lived up to its billing. Its macho nature is indicated in the fact that Hitler was fond of it. The brothers have a second globe which, they say, featured in the Nuremberg rallies.

This is a dangerous business, then, but more to the point is the way in which Carrara has integrated a "traditional" act into a larger sequence, where the planet's modern demons impel its destruction. Admittedly, the symbolism hits overdrive and the concept unravels a little by the end, but this is still an astonishing piece of circus-theatre, contemporary in its themes and ambitious in its execution. Amid the high-tech pizzazz there is still a concentration on the special skills of the human performer.

Apparently the French Government subsidised *Game Over* to the tune of £200,000, nearly half the production's cost. It seems a snip for such a fresh and spirited show.

● *Game Over* is at the Brixton Academy, 211 Stockwell Road, London SW9 0JF (0171 924 9999) until June 2

Eastern premises

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

Drury Lane, on June 4 and 6 have all of these, and more. *Miss Saigon* you probably know already — the hugely successful love story in which a latter-day Madam Butterfly meets an American GI. And the ghosts? Besides the Man in Grey — possibly a man discovered in a brick-up room in the 1850s — the shades reputedly include those of theatrical greats Dan Leno and Joseph Grimaldi. The banquet you will have to discover for yourself. Tickets are £37.50, which includes a top-price seat (normally £32.50), the buffet and theatre tour. To book, telephone 0171-494 5454 (Mon to Fri, 10am to 5pm)

LONDON

Jermy Street Theatre
June 4, 11
● THE career of Liliane Montevicchi reads like a history of modern theatre. She was a star of the Folies Bergère, won a Tony Award on Broadway and starred alongside the likes of Marlon Brando, Elvis Presley and Fred Astaire in movies. In *On the Boulevard* she reviews her life in music and comedy. Theatre Club members can enjoy a glass of wine with Montevicchi after the show. Tickets £16. Tel 0171-287 2875

Centre Stage

Cowart Garden
May 28, 29
● THE Bare and Ragged Theatre Company presents Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* at the end of a Wilde night out. The evening starts with a talk on the life of Wilde by Paul Webb, followed by a buffet supper before the main performance. Members will also receive a free CD of *Oscar*, a new

OTHER OFFERS

musical by James Clifton and Damian Landi, autographed by the composers. Tickets £10. Tel 0800 335588

OXFORD

Playhouse
June 3-4
● TWO up priced tickets for the price of one (normally £10 - £12) to Method & Madness's production of Noel Coward's *Private Lives* (June 3) and Philip Osmer's *Flesh and Blood* (June 4). Tel 01865 798600

GLASGOW

Kings Theatre
May 30
● TICKETS £10 (normally £17.50) for *Showstoppers*, the tribute to musicals starring Gary Wilmot. Tel 0141-227 511

BUXTON

Opera House
May 28-June 1
● TWO tickets for the price of

one (normally £7 to £10) for the classic drama, *Love on the Dole*. Tel 01296 72190

BRIGHTON

Theatre Royal
May 27-31
● TOP-PRICED seats £11 (normally £17.50) for Cole Porter's champagne musical, *High Society*. Tel 01273 328488

BARNSTAPLE

Queen's Theatre
June 5-6
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £5.50 to £9) for English Touring Theatre's production of Sheridan's evergreen comedy of manners, *The School for Scandal*. Tel 01271 24242

SOUTH SHIELDS

The Customs House
June 24-27
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £7.50 to £9.50) to the stage adaptation of Catherine Cookson's best-selling novel, *The Fifteen Streets*. Tel 0191-454 1234

The old man still on his toes

DANCE: Nadine Meisner on the highlights of a lively Paris season

At 72, Roland Petit is a French cultural monument, a grand old man of French ballet, the refined counterpart of Maurice Béjart. He started as a rebel, fleeing the academic confines of the Paris Opera Ballet to transform the French ballet of the 1940s and 1950s into a uniquely vibrant creative era, not repeated since.

For 24 years now he has been choreographer and director of the Ballet National de Marseille. His energy continues prolifically and if his early work remains his best, he still punctuates his choreographic production line with interesting pieces.

One such piece is reportedly *Camera Obscura*, created in 1994 for the Paris Opera Ballet which regularly presents his choreography, all old quarrels buried. So it came as a blow that injury cancelled its performance on the night I arrived to see the company at the Palais Garnier. The replacement, Jerome Robbins's *A Suite of Dances*, scuppered the programme's all-Petit intentions. But anything by Robbins *vaut le voyage*, while the two remaining Petit ballets gave a satisfying picture of the choreographer past and present.

Le Loup (The Wolf) is a classic from 1953, a perfect Diaghilevian synthesis of design, music and movement. The playwright Jean Anouilh devised the fantastical and cruel scenario that shows that titular Wolf to be more morally superior to men; Henri Dutilleul composed the commissioned score, full of theatre and big cushiony brass; Carrouz painted the evocative forest setting where a young girl is tricked into marrying a wolf. Kader Belarbi and Monique Loudières achieved emotional clarity and poi-

gnancy in the roles originally danced by Petit and the then 17-year-old Violette Verdy. Loudières, though, is edging towards 40 and looked rather beyond youthful innocence.

Petit has always had an affinity for sombre narratives, but he has intermittently ventured into more abstract terrain, as with *Rythme de valse*, also made for the Paris Opera in 1994, and set to Johann Strauss the Younger waltzes in arrangements by Alban Berg, Arnold Schoenberg and Anton Webern. Delphine Moussin and Yann Bridard, one of three superlative couples, limply etched the choreography's vivid contours.

The American William Forsythe is another who plays with the code of ballet, and the series of pieces that comprise his new *Six Counter Points* evening could be viewed as a history of ballet's evolution. Brought as part of Forsythe's Frankfurt Ballet season at the Paris Châtelet, *Six Counter Points* elucidates the different components of dance — the solos, the duets, the group patterns. It also seems to demonstrate the development of orchestrated movement, from the agonised attempts of Jone San Martin and Ion Garnika to control their spasmodic limbs in *The The* to the typically fluent Forsythian duets of *Approximate Sonata*, which forms the first half of *Two Ballets in the Manner of the Late 20th Century*.

The second half and final piece of the programme, *The Veriginous Thrill of Exaltitude*, is a Balanchinian display, so straightforwardly classical that it has you wondering whether it is parody. But that is Forsythe: puzzling, exhilarating, infuriating, audaciously inventive, he never ceases to surprise.



The vivid contours of Roland Petit's *Rythme de valse*, which he made for the Paris Opera in 1994

Fact is more important than fiction. Which is why we sponsor the award for it.

The shortlisted books are:

Mukiwa; *A White Boy in Africa* by Peter Godwin

The Railway Man, by Eric Lomax

Landscape & Memory, by Simon Schama

Albert Speer, by Gitta Sereny

In your bookshop now. The winner will be announced on May 22.



INGENIOUS...INVENTIVE...FORCIBLY FUN'
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What does the boss want?

Professional Secretaries' Day, last month, was organised by the Institute of Qualified Private Secretaries (IQPS), which dedicated a week — with the title Tide of Change — to celebrating the work of the secretary.

The institute says it is time for secretaries to make more of themselves and their job, to learn about their company, ask questions about the business, have the confidence to put forward their own ideas and build themselves a recognised role.

This, the Industrial Society (IS) agrees, is what bosses want. A new survey by the society on how managers assess their secretaries, shows that it is not the secretaries' skills that are at fault: it is their attitude — lack of initiative, fear of change and too little commitment.

The secretarial job, and its future, is the most debated of all office functions. So when Marjory Mair, management adviser on secretarial development for the IS, spoke at a recent IQPS seminar in London, she chose the appropriate, if provocative title, *The Future of the Secretary — Dead or Alive?*

Drawing on the survey, Ms Mair showed how managers see their secretaries' skill levels, the contribution they make to the organisation and their attitudes. Most are satisfied with secretaries' skills at the moment but many consider that they lack the skills needed for the future.

There was also strong dissatisfaction with the effectiveness of the

Sally Watts on the bosses who want their secretaries to take the initiative and make a powerful niche for themselves

contribution made by secretaries, especially their "inability or unwillingness" to be flexible and meet change, to take responsibility or to show initiative. Some are seen as lacking commitment and understanding of the business.

"They want more responsibility, but when the opportunity is given, they don't take it. Lack of self-confidence and fear of change are factors in stopping them trying new things," was one manager's comment in the IS report.

Other managerial comments included the observation that "most fail to move from the traditional secretarial role to that of a more administrative or PA type," and: "They need to make suggestions, be proactive rather than reactive, use their initiative and put their knowledge to greater use."

Bosses speak of "too much complacency", "a slightly inflexible, 'not my job' approach", the fact that secretaries "lack the confidence to cope with change and the flexibility to undertake new methods", and are "not contributing to the business or contributing wider than the role".

Ms Mair listed the skills, knowledge and personal attributes that, according to their managers, secretaries need in order to handle change: information technology, productivity and initiative, verbal communication, business aware-

ness, flexibility, organisational and management skills, the ability to work independently and autonomously.

Some of these conflict with the secretary's traditional role: the need not only for high-level technical expertise but also for creating and managing databases and coping with new developments, the ability to handle difficult customers and to spot things that could

less with secretaries than with the organisation and managers. They recognise that restructuring has added to the secretary's workload, either overall or in specific areas, her responsibilities have increased and little training is provided for support staff (today's secretarial function is reflected in a vast range of job titles).

Ms Mair, who began her secretarial training at 15 and is now an IQPS member and working for an Open University degree, told the education and training seminar that the secretarial role, though not dying, is subject to "inevitable, sometimes dramatic change".

She illustrated the main training needs identified by managers for their secretaries: information technology (again); verbal (including phone) communication; time management; confidence and assertiveness; written communication; management and administration.

She then enlarged on some of these: managing time should enable secretaries to manage their own and their boss's time; business awareness should make them conscious of the needs of customers, they should be ready to build relationships with clients' secretaries, be less task focused and more aware of outcomes, such as "this project is worth £20,000" rather than just "I'm typing this letter".

The secretarial job, and its future, is the most debated of all office functions

improve efficiency within the organisation.

One manager summed it up by saying: "More innovation, creativity, contribution to the business, challenging the status quo." Another said: "What secretaries need is business knowledge, the ability to be proactive, greater decision-making and managing their bosses."

A number believe the blame lies

"The secretaries' role is alive," Ms Mair said, "but they need to change their attitude, learn fresh skills, believe in themselves and behave in a less subordinate manner. They should see themselves as their own business and train themselves. Ask questions about the business and get involved in it. Have the confidence to speak up," she added, "and see yourself as someone worthwhile."

The need for skills ran like a thread through the titles of the seminar: vocational education; secretarial awards for the new millennium, by Jean Newland, of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry; core skills and National Vocational Qualifications.

Sara Coldicott, of the Royal Society of Arts, described the society's Diploma in Administrative and Secretarial Procedures, now being piloted. It was created in response to criticism of NVQ Level 3, which it complements, and will be nationally launched this autumn. She also discussed three new specialist options — legal, financial, and PA studies — that secretaries can take at evening classes.

● *Institute of Qualified Private Secretaries (IQPS) 973 3235; Secretaries Onwards and Upwards? The Future Role of the Secretary, by the Industrial Society and Secretarial Development Network, £20 from the Industrial Society, Robert Hyde House, 48 Bryanston Square, London W1H 7LN, 0171-262 2401.*

Lynne Truss, page 47



Marjory Mair: says secretaries need to make the most of their skills

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Village shop due for a comeback?

New business rate plans could prove a lifeline for more than 2,000 village post offices and twice as many general stores. The Environment Secretary, John Gummer, proposes to halve the rates bills of rural shops and open the door to a new type of the dreaded uniform business rate, known as the UBR.

mission to open a village shop and post office at a time when so many were closing.

Between 1991 and 1995, the number of rural post offices fell by 4 per cent, to about 10,000. There are 19,400 post offices in the UK altogether. On Valentine's Day last year, the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux called on the Government to halt the closure of rural sub-post offices which it said were an "essential lifeline for millions of people".

The residents of the village's 180 homes supported Mrs Betteridge. She said: "I wanted somewhere clean, somewhere where you could go and buy the basics, somewhere that you could buy your newspapers and magazines and somewhere where everybody can call and have a chat."

"Otherwise there are a lot of people in the village who would never see anyone. I cannot com-

pete against the supermarkets, but I can offer a cheaper range of foods as well as the more expensive brand names. I try also to offer other services, such as shoe repairs, drycleaning and film-processing."

"The mill had gone, the church had gone and now the village shop was going. When I came here 20 years ago every village round here had a shop," Mrs Betteridge said.

"This village had a shop, a post office and a church – and it was a smaller village then. I was so angry when the last shop was closing last October," said the mother of Richard, 13, and Amanda, 20.

The Betteridges turned away professional shop-fitters and kept their initial costs low by converting the shop themselves and buying shelves and food storage units from shops that were closing down in the nearby areas of Stratford, Redditch and Birmingham.

"We have elderly people, disabled people, mums and kids who can't easily get into town. My husband told me to stop ranting and raging and put my anger into doing something."

Mrs Betteridge, whose internal garage was still without doors, submitted her plans to Stratford District Council who she says were "gobsmacked" that she was applying for per-

The couple now work a six-and-a-half-day week from 6am to 6pm and plan to pay off their loan within two years. Mrs. Betteridge says: "I am used to working long hours. At least here I am at home and can do the accounts, the ironing or peel the vegetables for tea when the shop is quiet."

Imagine 37 acres. Then imagine it in the centre of London, the site of an enormous shopping centre. That could soon be the reality for a site just three miles from Marble Arch which has been vacant for more than a decade. A ten-year deadlock which has blocked its redevelopment is over.

The White City retail site will be bigger than Brent Cross, in north London. Building costs alone are expected to be £20 million. When completed, more than 100 shops will be housed there. At the end of the century, the site is estimated by BZWL to be worth about £500 million. It is one of the biggest single developments in Britain, on a scale that was not thought possible only a few years ago for edge-of-town shopping.

east estate, where Primrose Hill, Belsize Park and Hampstead, and Islington are all perky. Jon Anderson Perrett, from Winkworth's North Kensington office, estimates a 20 per cent increase in the number of new applicants and sales since the New Year. The district around North Kensington has had the largest growth in sales of anywhere in London, he says.

London. They see the shopping centre as part of a revitalisation of the area that will further bolster local house prices in Bayswater, North Kensington, Hammersmith, Notting Hill and Chiswick, although some residents worry about the extra traffic.

There are encouraging signs that west London is smartening up," says Hillary Wade, from the largest London agents, Windworth. The smarter bits of Notting Hill and Holland Park have always been much in demand. But demand has spread.

Buying agents agree. Willie Bethum, from the firm Property Vision, says the area will prove an interesting one for residential investment, but cautions that it will take years before the full effect of the shopping centre is felt. "It has to be seen to be successful" he says.

Tim Wright, from Savills, says: In the past five to seven years, the whole of Holland Park, Kensington, and the southerly and western

The proposed new centre at White City: it will be one of Britain's biggest single developments

venture between BAA and British Rail, is due to enter service in December 1997. More than six million passengers a year are expected to use the service, which will operate four times an hour and cut the journey time to 16 minutes. Trains will run on 11 miles of newly-electrified existing tracks from Paddington to Hayes, in western London, before branching off into a new four-mile tunnel to Heathrow. There are other plans in the pipeline. The developers Regalian own a Paddington site with NFER with planning permission for 1.5 million sq ft of office space.

David Goldstone, Regalian's socialist chairman, is enthusiastic about the site's potential — it will be 17 minutes from Heathrow when the fast link is finished in 1997. A new deal would also involve retail and leisure development.

Hammersmith is benefiting from businesses looking for good communications. Coca-Cola has taken up space at Hammersmith roundabout. EMI is a new arrival in Brook Green and Haymarket Publishing has just signed up a site in Hammersmith Road. The much publicised Arc office development is now almost entirely full. "Hammersmith has risen in popularity among professional couples and families," says John Harrison of

THE PRICE OF A 5-BEDROOM HOUSE IN WEST LONDON

1 mile

Hyde Park

White City development site

LONDON
Area of map

Shepherds Bush £300,000 (12%)

North Kensington £295,000 (20-30%)

Notting Hill £550,000 (20-30%)

Hammersmith £395,000 (20%)

Chiswick £525,000 (10-15%)

Fulham £510,000 (15-20%)

Putney £540,000 (10%)

Figures in brackets show the % price rises

These figures are sale price averages for top-of-the-range houses in West London with at least five bedrooms, in good condition and with gardens from Winkworth

and with good

13. ROSE WERWOLFE

Winkworth's Hammersmith office. One can, however, exaggerate the rise of west London. Jonathan Hewlett, head of Savills' Knightsbridge office, notes that more traditional buyers — especially foreigners — still regard Knightsbridge and Mayfair as truly

George Pope, from John D. Wood, is even more adamant that Belgravia remains prime central London and will not be outclassed by west London. "Eaton Square, for example, continues to be almost unique in the premiums paid for short leases," he says.

He says: "Many of the new rich have made their money in media and information technology and are less concerned with traditional values. They are more flexible about where they choose to live."

Paul Tayler, from de Groot Collis, says that while families are moving west, other international and English buyers are remaining loyal to Knightsbridge and the West End, with its theatres and shops.

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The shape of cities to come

Public or private development, in town or out of town? Christopher Warman on the challenges facing developers

Since the boom days of the 1980s when developers needed to look no further than their next deal, recession has obliged property companies to invest in a little imagination and diversity — into the leisure and entertainment field, for instance.

Another, perhaps more fundamental, change has been the increasing number of partnerships forged between the property sector and government, notably in pioneering initiatives to help regenerate run-down inner-city areas and town centres. With a foot in each of these camps of expansion and initiative — entertainment and regeneration — stands the millennium, with all the market and publicity opportunities it entails.

Given the Government's commitment to celebrating the event, it is little wonder that many grand development schemes have already been proposed. And if Greenwich's troubled bid finally gets the go-ahead, the result — transforming the site of a former gasworks into a £500 million waterfront monument to technology — will surely be the world's most publicised practical reclamation of an inner-city landscape.

Jenny Page, chief executive of the Millennium Commission, can certainly expect an attentive audience at the Cities 96 conference in Sheffield today, where she is speaking on the role of lottery and millennium funding in major building and property schemes.

One focus of the conference, with important implications extending well beyond the millennium, is the effort being made to slow the business exodus from town and city centres to out-of-town sites — an issue which has provoked political disagreement. John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, who addresses the conference today, says: "We are witnessing a radical improvement to our cities as they adjust to the demands of the 21st century, stimulated by the Single Regeneration Budget Challenge Fund, City Challenge, English Partnerships and European funding. Partnerships across the country are tackling deep-seated physical, economic and social problems as they revitalise their areas."

Mr Gummer's attendance at the conference includes the first Secretary of State's Award for Partnership in Regeneration. While the Labour Party's policy is against out-of-town developments, Tony Blair has displayed a warmer attitude towards such schemes — and the Labour MP



Mall of the future: Sheffield's gleaming Meadowhall Centre

Keith Vaz has argued that ministers should not interfere in the commercial relations between consumer and company.

The aim of the Cities series of conferences and exhibitions — this is the fourth annual event — is to ensure that such issues are kept to

the fore, and that all organisations concerned with urban management are given a voice. The first Cities, in 1993, was hailed as the first serious attempt to examine seriously how cities in the United Kingdom are run, and how they might be run better.

Sheffield is an appropriate choice to host Cities 96, since its massive retail and leisure complex at Meadowhall may hold lessons for future urban development. The complex is the largest such out-of-town scheme in Europe — and not surprisingly, delegates have been invited to visit to view its progress.

Explaining Sheffield's commitment to regeneration, Mike Bower, leader of the city council, points out that the Arena, where the Cities conference is being held, was built along with other sporting facilities for the World Student Games in 1991.

"These developments were part of a deliberate strategy to use sport and leisure as one way of stimulating social and economic regeneration," he says.

A decade ago, the area around the conference centre was at the heart of the city's steel and engineering industry. "Today it is home to a wide range of service and manufacturing industries — and to Meadowhall," Mr Bower says. "None of this could have been achieved without partnership between the public and private sectors, local and national government, the universities and local communities."

The British Urban Regeneration Association (BURA), one of the main supporters of Cities along with the Environment Department, Civic Trust and Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, is presenting its own award for "best practice in urban regeneration".

MARKET MOVES

Skyline of steel

THE cranes have returned to Mayfair. This rough test of the health of the property sector, from the consultants Drivers Jonas, shows that there are now 18 cranes on the Mayfair and St James's skyline. The area east of New Bond Street, including Clifford Street and Old Burlington Street, is seeing most activity.

Cluttons confirms this surge in activity in its latest survey of the area. The firm has witnessed a 332 per cent increase in construction in Mayfair, and 114 per cent in St James's. The two markets have started to polarise. Mayfair has seen a 16 per cent increase in take-up, while St James's has suffered a 62 per cent decrease, probably because of the lack of new-build opportunities.

SMITHKLINE Beecham is to dispose of two of its major buildings in Surrey. Great Burgh and Brockham Park. The company is to consolidate its research and development activities on one site in Harlow, Essex, early next year.

Brockham Park, in a 30-acre rural setting between Dorking and Reigate, provides about 165,000 sq ft of office and laboratory space, and includes Brockham House, the main office building, which was constructed around 1870. Great Burgh, including Great Burgh House, has 250,000 sq ft of



Brockham Park in Surrey

offices and laboratories in 25 acres four miles from Epsom. Jones Lang Wootton and Walter & Company are seeking offers from potential owner-occupiers or developers.

INLAND Revenue Scotland, advised by Hillier Parker, is to lease the 34,000 sq ft Clarendon House, an open-plan office building developed by The Equitable Life Assurance Society in George Street, Edinburgh. The Inland Revenue will be relocating its headquarters functions from Lauriston House, where its lease expires in May 1997.

The Inland Revenue has taken a 25-year lease with a rental of £15 a sq ft.

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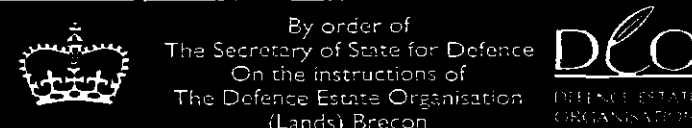
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Northamptonshire dent tourists' preparation for Texaco Trophy series

Indians concede unbeaten record in final warm-up

By SIMON WILDE

LUTON (Northamptonshire beat the Indians on faster scoring rate)

THE INDIANS were given a rather more rigorous workout than they would have liked by Northamptonshire yesterday in their last match before the Texaco Trophy series with England opens at the Oval tomorrow. They lost their unbeaten record on tour and were given food for thought about several aspects of their game.

There were also some anxious moments for Mohamud Azharuddin, the captain, who was stuck on the right index finger by balls from Tony Penberthy, the Northamptonshire seam bowler. Azharuddin received treatment on the field and was dismissed shortly afterwards for 26, caught at the wicket fence gingerly at another ball from Penberthy.

Although Azharuddin expects to be fit to play against England, he conceded that he was worried about the finger, which was cut to the knucklebone. The Wadsworth Park pitch showed occasional unpredictable bounce and, although it was by no means dangerous, batsmen needed to be watchful.

Tendulkar, who, with his captain, may have to carry the Indian batting, was duly cautious in the first hour, otherwise he might have made many more runs than he did.

Nevertheless, he was not in the slightest trouble during his 108-ball innings of 88 and it came to an end only because of a sharp piece of fielding by Taylor.

Tendulkar was out in the 41st over and was threatening mayhem in the closing stages. He had cut loose against Embury, off whom he had been missed on 74 by Loye on the boundary. Manjrekar and Sidhu also made sprightly

contributions, but Rathore's second successive failure raises a question-mark about his long-term future as an opening batsman. Sandeep Patil, the India manager, has been concerned about the lack of top-quality bowling that his team has faced on this tour, so the problems posed by Northamptonshire's five seamers, notably Taylor, who finished

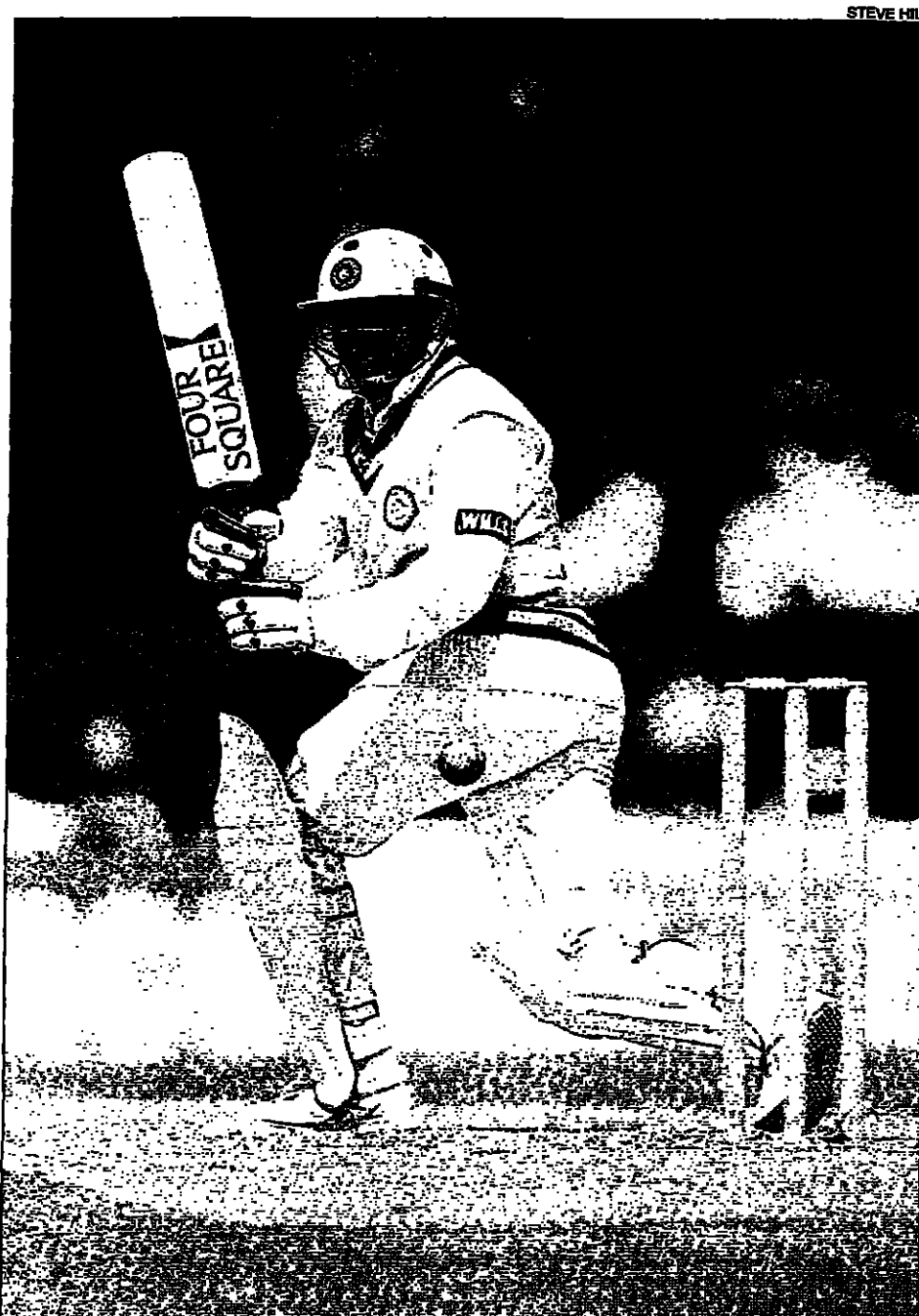
with the best figures of two for 30, were probably welcome. The Indians' total of 228 for nine was an insufficient challenge to any team batting second on this small ground.

This is Northamptonshire's only fixture at Wadsworth Park this season, but Allan Lamb, their former captain, made the most of the rare visit to park his car alongside the marquee and sell his testimonial merchandise off the tailgate. He bussed about the boundary with as much gusto as he used to around the crease.

Even without him, Northamptonshire made light of their task and it was Loye, the batsman who has most benefited from Lamb's retirement, who played the decisive innings. Troubled by a serious finger injury, he struggled to force his way into first XI cricket last year, but yesterday showed the pedigree that earned him an England A tour three years ago. He has made some solid if unspectacular scores this season, but a big century cannot be far away.

He came in with his side in a few early difficulties at 38 for two, which soon became 41 for three, but struck 83 from 95 balls and scarcely looked in difficulty. He shared stands of 93 in 24 overs with Bailey, who remains in prime form, and 45 in six overs with Curran, who was there at the end as Northamptonshire reached their revised target with seven balls to spare. Because of a short stoppage for rain, their task was changed to 192 runs from 42 overs.

What will most concern the Indians is the modest appearance of their bowling and fielding. Without Srinath, their only dangerous bowler was Kumble — who eventually dismissed Loye — and their outcries looked ordinary beside Northamptonshire's. These are the problems that troubled them during the World Cup and they still remain. As for Northamptonshire, they are unbeaten in seven one-day matches this season.



Jadeja, the Indians' No 6, turns the ball off his legs during his innings of ten

Pakistan leave Aqib at home

AQIB JAVED, the seam bowler, was the surprise omission from the 17-man party named by Pakistan yesterday for the forthcoming tour of England. Ramiz Raja and Basit Ali have also been left out.

Wasim Akram will captain the side, with Aamir Sohail, who led Pakistan in tournaments in Singapore and Sharjah last month, the vice-captain.

Aqib and Basit have, however, been listed among nine reserve players. A manager has yet to be named, Intikhab

Alam having been relieved of his duties. "Wasim Akram is fully satisfied and happy with the selection of the team," Arif Abbasi, the chief executive of the Pakistan cricket board, said. Saeed Anwar, Ijaz Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq and Salim Malik head the batting line-up.

Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram will lead the pace bowling, assisted by Ata-ur-Rehman and Shahid Nazir, who was selected after taking 16 wickets in three first-class matches in domestic cricket.

Mushtaq Ahmed is the principal spin bowler in the party. Asif Mujtaba, the left-handed batsman, returns after an absence of almost two years, having scored several centuries in domestic competitions recently. Arif said that Ian Chappell, the former Australian captain, has been hired to help the team with its preparation.

PARTY: Wasim Akram (captain), Aamir Sohail (vice-captain), Saeed Anwar, Salim Malik, Ijaz Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Ramiz Raja, Mohamud Azharuddin, Saeed Anwar, Shahid Nazir, Shahid Nazir

Walker left in shade by Barada's impressive exhibition

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN GIZA, EGYPT

AN extraordinary breakthrough by Ahmed Barada, the world junior champion, to remove Rodney Eyles, the world No 2, from the quarter-finals of the Al Ahram International 96 squash tournament on the plateau of Giza, outside Cairo, appears already to have triggered a massive commitment to re-claiming Egypt's role as a leading squash nation.

The history of Egyptian squash reaches back into the days of British military history there. Amr Bey was their first great champion, followed by Mahmoud Karim and Ibrahim Amin. In more recent years, Magdi Saad and Ahmed Safwat carried the tradition with strength and elegance. Gamal Awad brought a rare staying power.

Now Barada comes, aged 18, skilled, tough and blessed with a big occasion psychology. This 15-4, 15-11, 15-12 win was achieved in just 50 minutes against one of the best pressure players in the game, on an open-air Perspex showcourt mounted among the pyramids of Giza.

Soon after Barada's triumph, Chris Walker, 28, the England captain, showed the form that took him to the Mahindra final in Bombay in December, to produce a fine but unexpected 15-13, 15-8, 15-11 victory over Brett Martin, of Australia, and earn a semi-final place against the Barada.

There was no doubt to whom the evening belonged, however. The Egyptians already revere Barada in much the way that Jansher Khan commands attention in Pakistan. Yesterday, Barada's hotel was the target of other top Egyptian sportsmen, anxious to commend his success, and perhaps to associate themselves with it.

There will be an Al Ahram International 97 and there is talk of more important tournaments over the coming 12 months. Already, the world junior championships are booked for Cairo.

Last night, Khan was to face Peter Nicol, of Scotland, the British national champion, in their semi-final. It may, however, be Barada who causes him more concern.

Richardson loses his Cup place to Ladejo

GREAT BRITAIN'S unprecedented strength in depth at the men's 400 metres will be highlighted today when it will be announced that Mark Richardson, the Windsor athlete, has been dropped from the European Cup individual spot, despite winning the event last year. The place goes to Du'aine Ladejo, who has been in better form.

"I was looking forward to it and, being the reigning champion, I thought the selectors would have confidence in me," Richardson said. "I am sentimental about that competition and it rakes me to have been picked."

Sampras fails

Tennis: Pete Sampras, the world No 1 from the United States, was beaten 7-6, 2-6, 6-3 by Bohdan Ulihrach, of the Czech Republic, in Düsseldorf yesterday in his first match since the death of his coach and close friend, Tim Gullison, from brain cancer. The Czech took a 2-0 lead in the World Team Cup match.

Gabriela Sabatini, a six-time semi-finalist at the French Open, has withdrawn from the tournament next week with a persistent stomach muscle problem.

Britain slip up

Hockey: An early goal from Mandy Nicholls was not enough to secure victory for Great Britain at Lilleshall yesterday as they lost the first of two pre-Olympic training matches against Argentina 2-1. With injuries to several key players, Lucy Culliford and Charlotte Merritt, from the reserves, were given the chance to impress.

Dermott double

Golf: Lisa Dermott retained the Welsh women's title at Tenby yesterday, beating Vicki Thomas, the eight-times champion, from Penarth. Dermott won the first four holes and took victory 4 and 3.

England subdued

Badminton: England's men were beaten 5-0 in the Thomas Cup in Hong Kong yesterday by Indonesia, the holders, who went through to the semi-finals.

LUTON SCOREBOARD	
INDIANS	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
S R Tendulkar run out... 88	D J Capel b Mambrey... 3
N S Sidhu c Embury b Curran... 26	R R Moringhams c Joshi b Prasad... 12
M Azharuddin c Warren b Penberthy... 26	T C Walton c Manjrekar b Mambrey... 8
S V Manjrekar c Bailey b Taylor... 37	M B Loye c Joshi b Kumble... 83
A D Jadeja c Walton b Taylor... 10	R J Bailey run out... 41
T N R Mongia not out... 10	K M Curran not out... 26
S Joshi b Penberthy... 13	HR J Warren not out... 10
A Kumble c Warren b Penberthy... 0	Extras (lb 6, w 2, nb 4)... 12
P Mambrey b Penberthy... 0	Total (5 wickets, 40.4 overs)... 195
B K V Prasad not out... 1	A L Penberthy, J E Embury, N A Mambrey and J Taylor did not bat.
Total (5 wickets, 30 overs)... 15	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-30, 3-41, 4-134, 5-179.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-48, 3-119, 4-174, 5-202, 6-204, 7-225, 8-227, 9-227.	BOWLING: Venkatesh Prasad 10-1-37-1, Mambrey 9-5-38-2, Joshi 6-0-28-0, Kumble 4-0-48-1, Tendulkar 5-0-39-0.
BOWLING: Taylor 10-3-30-2, Mambrey 10-3-31-1, Curran 10-4-48-1, Capel 7-0-41-0, Embury 4-0-27-0, Penberthy 9-0-42-4.	Umpires: B Leadbeater and M K Reed.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Pat Davies and Nicola Smith are Great Britain's best women's pair. They combined well on this hand, from the Forbo tournament in Scheveningen in March.

Dealer East	Love all	IMP's
♠ K Q J 9 8 ♥ Q ♦ K Q J 10 ♣ A 10 9 ♠ A 10 ♥ A 9 8 4 ♦ 8 7 5 3 2 ♣ K 2	♠ 8 3 ♥ K J 10 5 3 2 ♦ A 6 ♣ 7 6	
W	N	E
Davies	Smith	Pass
2 S	Pass	Pass
Pass	Double	3 S
Pass	4 S	All Pass

Contract: Four Spades by South Lead: Ace of hearts

East's Two Diamond opening was the "multicoloured" Two Diamonds. The possible hands for the bid were a Weak Two in either major, or various types of strong hand. West's Two Spades simply announced that, if East had a Weak Two in spades, that was where she wanted to play. As East has to go to the three level if she has hearts. West clearly needed heart support to make the bid.

East duly bid Three Hearts and, when that went back to North, he doubled for take-out. His raise of South's Three Spades to Four Spades was slightly optimistic, out of South, but, if the defence had not been sharp, Four Spades would have been made — left to his own devices, South can enter his hand with the third

round of spades to lead the queen of clubs. On the lead of the ace of hearts, Smith dropped the king. Davies correctly interpreted this as inviting a switch to the higher-ranking suit, ie diamonds. Smith took the ace and returned a second round of trumps, and played a third diamond, and Smith was able to ruff with the eight of spades for the setting trick.

□ The English teams of four for the Crookford's Cup was contested at the weekend. The winners were Derek Patterson, Willie Whitaker, Pat Collins, Peter Law and Peter Donovan.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ACRASIA

- a. A wild witch
- b. A small yellow rock plant
- c. Meat ball tapas

SOOTERKIN

- a. Stepchildren
- b. A ghost
- c. A false birth

MORGIANA

- a. A red-hot slave
- b. Diagonal brick-bonding
- c. Catalan "good-morning"

DAIKOKU

- a. A Japanese duck
- b. A Korean gambling game
- c. God of Good Luck

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

White: Boris Gelfand Black: Miguel Illesca Madrid, May 1996

Quick wins

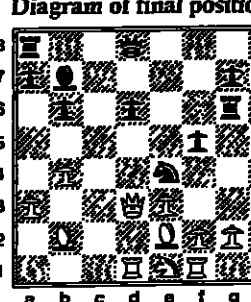
A notable feature of the international tournament that has recently concluded in Madrid was the violence and brevity of many of the wins. In the game today, Boris Gelfand, the Belarusian grandmaster, is torn apart in just 19 moves with White, while, in the second encounter, Gelfand destroys his solid opponent, Valery Salov, the Russian grandmaster, who has now applied for residency in Spain.

White: Boris Gelfand Black: Miguel Illesca Madrid, May 1996

Bogo-Indian defence

1 d4	Nf6
2 Nf3	Bb7
3 c4	Bd4
4 Nbd2	b6
5 a3	Bxd2+
6 Qxd2	Bb7
7 e3	O-O
8 Be2	Oe6
9 O-O	Nbd7
10 Nc4	Ne4
11 Qd3	Rf6
12 Bb2	Rf6
13 d5	Rg6
14 dxe6	Nf6
15 c5	Nxe6
16 cxd6	Qxd6

Diagram of final position



WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Arkhipkin — Produnov, Albena, 1977. The key piece here is the White bishop on d5 which is bearing down menacingly against the Black king. How did White now exploit the strength of this piece to the full?

Solution, page 46

17 Rd1	Kf8
18 Ne1	Ng5
19 Kh1	Nf3

White resigns

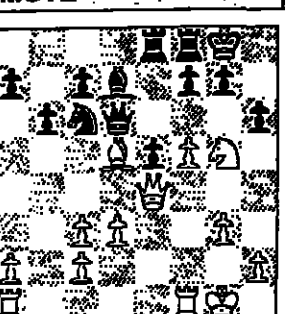
White is unable to capture the black knight at 20, gdx3 Nxf2 is mate. He thus has no defence against a Black knight capturing on f2 next move after which Black will have a decisive material advantage.

White: Boris Gelfand Black: Valery Salov Madrid, May 1996

Queen's Gambit Accepted

1 d4	d5
2 c4	cxd4
3 Nf3	a6
4 e3	Nf6
5 Bxd4	e6
6 Oe2	Oe6
7 dxc5	Bxc5
8 O-O	Nc6
9 e4	Ng4
10 e5	Nd4
11 Nxd4	Qxd4
12 Nf2	Nxe5
13 Nf3	Qxd4
14 Qxe5	Qd5
15 Bg3	Bd6
16 Qg3	Oe4
17 Rf1	Oe4
18 Rd1	Be7
19 f5	ed5
20 Rf1	Qg4
21 Qc7	Be6
22 Rd4	Qg6
23 Qxd7	Rd8
24 Bf4	Kf8
25 Rd7	Bd7
26 Qxd7	Qd6+
27 Nh1	Rd8
28 Rxd7	Rxd7
29 Bc6	Qxd6
30 Qxd6	H5
31 Nd4	Rf6
32 Qc5	Rf6
33 Kg1	Black resigns

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



Cardiff plan cross-code rugby future

By CHRISTOPHER IRTVINE

CARDIFF is set to become the first year-round rugby club playing both codes, under proposals that could see a resumption by Jonathan Davies of his rugby league career, in addition to his union commitments.

The joint venture, and a £500,000 sponsorship is dependent on the new South Wales club being "fast-tracked" into the Stanes Super League next year. The Rugby Football League is under pressure to make a quick decision, for fear that potential backers might withdraw if

there is a delay, although acceptance of an application is unlikely before the Rugby League Council meets on July 3.

Clive Griffiths, the Wales rugby league coach, said: "Cardiff rugby union club have the big vision. They want rugby at the Park 12 months a year and the situation where players can play both codes, as long as the players are managed properly. That's an exciting venture, not far down the road, under which the Wales team would be safeguarded. Otherwise, the trend back to union continues; then the writing is on the wall."

David Young, the Wales captain, is due

to join Davies at Cardiff in September, and sees no reason why he could not play both games. "I would hope to continue playing rugby league internationally," he said. "Things in my contract at Cardiff would have to be ironed out, but I see nothing to stop it at the moment."

Meanwhile, Andrew Farrell, 20, has been appointed the youngest captain of England for the European championship competition with France and Wales next month. Phil Larder, the England coach, said: "He has the respect of everybody in the squad, is the right kind of character and is a leader of men."

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

MANCHESTER: British veterans road relay championships. Men 4 x 1 mile: 1. N. Taylor 2. B. J. Phillips 3. J. J. Jones 4. J. J. Jones 5. J. J. Jones 6. J. J. Jones 7. J. J. Jones 8. J. J. Jones 9. J. J. Jones 10. J. J. Jones 11. J. J. Jones 12. J. J. Jones 13. J. J. Jones 14. J. J. Jones 15. J. J. Jones 16. J. J. Jones 17. J. J. Jones 18. J. J. Jones 19. J. J. Jones 20. J. J. Jones 21. J. J. Jones 22. J. J. Jones 23. J. J. Jones 24. J. J. Jones 25. J. J. Jones 26. J. J. Jones 27. J. J. Jones 28. J. J. Jones 29. J. J. Jones 30. J. J. Jones 31. J. J. Jones 32. J. J. Jones 33. J. J. Jones 34. J. J. Jones 35. J. J. Jones 36. J. J. Jones 37. J. J. Jones 38. J. J. Jones 39. J. J. Jones 40. J. J. Jones 41. J. J. Jones 42. J. J. Jones 43. J. J. Jones 44. J. J. Jones 45. J. J. Jones 46. J. J. Jones 47. J. J. Jones 48. J. J. Jones 49. J. J. Jones 50. J. J. Jones 51. J. J. Jones 52. J. J. Jones 53. J. J. Jones 54. J. J. Jones 55. J. J. Jones 56. J. J. Jones 57. J. J. Jones 58. J. J. Jones 59. J. 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Juventus settle into role of European underdogs



Kluivert substitute

ROME is hot and sultry and heavy with that scent of pessimism and alarm that Italians peculiarly bring to their own great opportunities on football nights. The Old Lady, as Juventus is popularly known, is listing towards fear before its attempt, in the Olympic Stadium tonight, to deprive Ajax of the ultimate prize in club football, the European Cup.

Only the English have come to Rome and won the Cup in this city — indeed, only Liverpool, in 1977 and 1984, have captured the prize here — but, unless Gianluca Vialli makes his announcement on Friday in favour of joining Chelsea or Rangers, this particular Anglo-Italian bond is history. Now is the time, again, for the young and versatile Amsterdammers, or for Juventus, a mighty institution from Turin, whose only capture of the European Cup was that stained

night of 39 deaths in the Heysel Stadium in Brussels in 1985.

Why, though, given injuries and departures from Ajax, should Marcello Lippi, the silver-haired coach to Juventus, hand so much confidence the way of his opponents? Ajax, he insists, are favourites; they are the champions of the Continent and "if we lose, nobody will machine-gun me... a win would be an absolutely great achievement".

Vialli, as he nears 32 still a stirring athlete and a powerful centre forward, said: "We have two opponents — Ajax and the tension." He, by choice one of the minority of Juventus players not preparing for Euro 96 in England next month, brightens in mood when he speaks, with contrived clandestine overtones, of his next move. "To leave on a high would be perfect; that way, you keep all your friends," he said;

Rob Hughes finds the Italian champions in wary mood before taking on Ajax's class of '96

but he did not say "yes" and he did not say "no" when pressed on the question of whether he might actually stay with the club if the billions of lira are right and his supposed last performance in the black and white stripes of the Old Lady ends in fulfilment.

The potent duo of Vialli and Fabrizio Ravanelli is well known. So, too, is the fact that, floating behind and to the left of them, Alessandro Del Piero has lately lost just a shade of his bewitching potential — something to do with the demands placed on a 21-year-old asked to play for the Italian army, for his club and for Italy's Olympic and senior sides. Yet there are ten Juventus players who have hit the

target in ten European games this season. Similarly, nine of the Ajax squad — virtually to a man, the Dutch national team — have scored in their ten games. The exception — and he is quite exceptional — is Jari Litmanen, the Finnish forward, the leading scorer in the Champions League this season with eight goals.

We hear so often of the Ajax kindergarten, the grooming school for players, but, this season, with Clarence Seedorf transferred to Sampdoria, with Marc Overmars injured, and with Frank de Boer still doubtful with an ankle injury, it is Ajax who are suffering. Recently, they approached and were rejected

by seven young players whom they wished to purchase. It is the problem of a club with such a reputation for replacing one generation with the next that nobody dares go to Amsterdam and face the competition from within.

Speaking of daring, Patrick Kluivert, the colossal centre forward who has recently come through a knee operation and a court case that found him guilty of causing death through dangerous driving, starts the match in Rome where he started the final in Vienna a year ago. He is a substitute, being nursed towards fitness, capable of perhaps an explosive half-hour if need be at the end. Kluivert may need far less time. As a teenage substitute in Vienna, he scored the only goal, three minutes from time, against AC Milan.

The expectation could scarcely be higher. There are so many match-

winner, so much anticipation that this final will be the classic that everybody hoped for, without justification, from the Liverpool v Manchester United English showpiece at Wembley a fortnight ago.

Although English influence is far away this time (it could even be as out of mind as a squad training in Peking), it never truly leaves the stage. Before and after this final of finals, we shall hear the Champions' League anthem, composed by Tony Britten, played by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and sung by the Academy of St Martins-in-the-Field chorus. They may try to leave the Brits behind, but our voice will always be heard.

AJAX (3-4-3): E. Van der Sar — S. Stroot, D. Blind, W. Bergkamp, G. Geurts, E. De Boer, K. Kluivert, F. De Boer, R. De Boer, J. Litmanen, N. Karsu.

JUVENTUS (3-4-3): A. Perugini — M. Tardelli, C. Ferrara, P. Verweij, A. Costa, P. Scuderi, D. Desamparado, G. Pessotto — A. Del Piero — F. Ravanelli, G. Vialli.

Englishman continues his continental drift with arrival at Barcelona

Robson accepts risky pension plan

By Rob Hughes
Football Correspondent

BOBBY ROBSON, who, nine months ago, came perilously close to the last rites, touched down in Barcelona yesterday and could have been forgiven for not knowing whether he had passed into heaven or hell.

The city's football club, the biggest in Spain, is apparently about to pay this "pensioner" £100,000 per month for a period of up to two years; and as he saw the public and the press swarming around him at Barcelona airport, he may just have been aware of the crossfire between Josep-Luis Núñez, the Barcelona president, and Johan Cruyff, his predecessor as coach, who was sacked. The two are sounding off with such rancour that Cruyff has warned that it is bound to end up in the courts.

This is nothing, of course, to do with Robson. At 63, but with the enthusiasm of an 18-year-old, he has accepted what he calls his last great challenge, having left Porto, where he enjoyed tranquillity and a thoroughly trusting relationship with his club president, and become the media's focal point in Barcelona, where the football club is an expression of the ambitions of the Catalan people.

Robson has the experience for the challenge. After all, he has managed England, growing grey before the eyes of millions; and, last August, in Harley Street, he was told that he had a malignant tumour inside the left cheekbone that would kill him before the season was out unless emergency surgery could arrest it. It not only worked, but also Robson completed his own successful operation, achieving a second successive Portuguese title for Porto.

Robson has always been popular in football. He conveys the earthiness of a Durham miner's son. He had the ability to play football as if his life depended on it and, in management, whatever the criticism, one simply could not knock the infectious thrill that the game seems to have held permanently for him. Now that a little something has turned up by way of insurance for his retirement, he has indeed enjoyed a life beyond fiction.

Life in Catalonia will not be



Robson is surrounded by the media on his arrival in Spain yesterday to take over as coach of Barcelona from Johan Cruyff

easy. He knows from the outset that the club that he twice rejected — the second time proposing that a young fellow named Terry Venables should be hired — is an enormous family at war with itself, but why should that bother him after what he has come to terms with?

His first task at Barcelona is to shed some of the indulgent "stars", such as the overweight George Hagi and the slimmer but brittle Robert Prosinecki. They, like some of the millionaire players whom Cruyff had earlier injected, have sold the club short. From a Catalan perspective, second place, let alone third, which Barcelona occupy at present, represents failure. This is not

as Rinus Michels, the former Holland manager who also had a spell at the club, observed, "a sane football environment", but Cruyff exacerbated the problems, turning his wonderful triumphs in his eight-year reign into an obsession to dominate everything and everyone that moved through the Nou Camp.

When you have such public disdain for men as sensitive and as political as Núñez and Joan Gaspart, his cohort, whose smile is not all that it appears, you court expulsion. To lose matches while you are making the president lose face is more than careless.

When Núñez poured out his vitriol yesterday, accusing

Cruyff of, among other things, favouring Jordi, his son, in the team ahead of "great stars", the acrimony besmirched the resplendent club in much the same way that the back-street muggers can ruin a night out for unsuspecting foreign visitors. It is a marvellous city, poisoned by the unexpected; likewise the club.

However, Robson, who once moonlighted to earn £2 an afternoon as a rep for an engineering company to augment his £20-a-match wage as a West Bromwich Albion player, should know how to walk the straight and narrow.

He has learnt, by winning championships in Holland, with PSV Eindhoven, and

with Porto, that, on the Continent, "all" the manager is required to do is coach and coax the best out of astonishingly well-paid athletes.

With his wife, Elsie, a trained nurse and school-teacher, Robson will surely follow Gary Lineker's example of integrating himself into Catalan society. The alternative, as Mark Hughes discovered to his cost, is to play the hermit and miss out on the fun of the city and acceptance within it.

Having seen Robson at work with players whose language he barely speaks, having seen him transmit his enthusiasm, one has no doubt that he will liberate players so

tightly controlled under Cruyff. If it clicks, as it usually does with Robson, sometimes to the bewilderment of his critics, then do not be against him translating his winning touch to yet another country.

He is a remarkable man who has led a remarkable life. Even though he is wont to forget even the names of players who have "done the business" for him, he has a wisdom and humanity that is as appealing as his ability to bring freshness to every football cliché. "Don't forget, in football, everyone makes mistakes," he said 11 years ago. "You are dealing with human beings, surely the most complicated species in the world."

Venables gives pass mark to Peking's pitch

Andrew Longmore joins in the inspection of the playing surface at the Workers Stadium where England play against China tomorrow

As England sweated through their first training session in bright sunshine yesterday, the main square outside the Workers Stadium in Peking was transformed into a giant school playground. Six games of football orbited each other, revolving round the central statue that guards the entrance and occasionally scattering the homeward-bound cyclists and the kite-fliers indulging in a pastime as ancient as football itself.

Strangely, none of the young children wore the shirts of their country, their clubs or, praise be, of the ubiquitous Manchester United. The predominant colours were those of Juventus and Ajax, a reminder that the European Cup is being shown on English television tonight. England, in the differing forms of Paul Gascoigne and Michael Heseltine, are not the only attractions in town.

Much of the talk at England's training session was of who would win. Stuart Pearce, a defender, said Juventus. Almost everyone else said Ajax. Lazio and Sampdoria have toured here in recent weeks and no city outside Turin will be more pro-Juve than Peking.

As Terry Venables, the England coach, has been at pains to point out, the Chinese know their game. Highlights of Serie A and the FA Cup Premier League are beamed into millions of homes and are well enough digested for a small boy to ask one of the press party why it was that England's club football was so strong and its national team so weak. The question could have added meaning by late tomorrow night if England take their opponents too lightly. Not until Lazio won 2-1 here last week have either Peking, the club side, or China lost at the Workers Stadium over the past two years, a record due, in part, to the dubious surface.

The state of the pitch was one of Venables's prime con-

cerns yesterday, but at least the holes have been filled since his previous visit. "I've seen worse," he said, thinking perhaps of Hackney Marshes in his youth or the semi-final of the FA Cup at Villa Park. The England players prodded it with a suspicion that Geoff Boycott reserved for a spinner's paradise.

The Chinese team arrived early to watch England train, a compliment not repaid, and Ou Chuliang, their goalkeeper, measuring no more than 5ft 8in and weighing a mere ten stone went through, even voiced the old-fashioned nicety that England were still one of the best teams in the world. In fact, he said the best team, but his English was not fluent. He had a particularly high regard for Alan Shearer, a "quick-minded" player. Quietly, you feared for Chuliang if the pair met in aerial combat; but he said he was not scared.

Venables had already singled out Gao Feng, the speedy young winger, as a potential danger and England can take some of the credit for the development of Hao Haidong, his striking partner. When Graham Taylor, one of the more enlightened managers of the time, brought Watford to China in the early Eighties, he offered a pair of boots to the boy who could keep the ball off the ground the longest. Hao Haidong, then 12, won the boots and is now a talented member of a fast-developing team.

Qi Wusheng, the coach, has his critics, but has fashioned a tough, hard-running side from the debris after failure to qualify for the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Today, England will take in the sights, the Great Wall, perhaps, or the Forbidden City, where they will find the Hall of Manifest Harmony and the Palace of Gathering Excellence. If they return home with both those qualities, the visit will have been well worthwhile.

Oriel trust in dashing blades

PEMBROKE and Oriel are expected to engage in an exciting tussle for the headship in the Oxford University Summer Eights, which start today on the Isis. Oriel are regarded as the faster crew, but must overcome Pembroke's advantage of a length and a half, and more important, clean water.

In the second division, the Keble eight, which could easily be mistaken for an OUBC boat, must surely win their blades and end up in the lower reaches of the first division.

The race in the women's divisions is for second place behind an Oslor Blues crew containing three Blues and three Oslor rowers.

Starting order
Men
FIRST DIVISION (8.45): Pembroke, Oriel, St Edmund Hall, Brasenose, Balliol, Magdalen, Christ Church, New College, St John's, University, Worcester, Jesus.
SECOND DIVISION (9.45): Wadham, Exeter, Keble, St Peter's, Lincoln, St Catherine's, Hartford, Oriel, Trinity, Merton, Lady Margaret Hall, Christ Church II, Wadham II, Jesus II, Brasenose II, Magdalen II, University II, Mansfield, Pembroke II, Magdalen II.

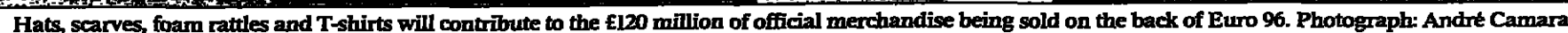
FOURTH DIVISION (10.45): Balliol II, Oslor House II, St Hugh's, Worcester II, Keble II, Oriel II, St John's II, Lincoln II, Brasenose II, St Peter's II, Exeter II, St Catherine's II, St Edmund Hall II, Magdalen II.
FIFTH DIVISION (11.45): Somerville, Hartford II, Jesus II, University II, Keble II, Wadham II, Merton II, Brasenose II, Christ Church II, St John's II, Trinity II, Oriel II, Lady Margaret Hall II, Trinity II, St Edmund Hall II, Magdalen II.
SIXTH DIVISION (12.45): Wadham II, St John's II, Trinity II, Keble II, Regent's Park, New College II, Lincoln II, Corpus Christi II, Brasenose II, St Peter's II, Exeter II, St Catherine's II, St Edmund Hall II, Magdalen II.
SEVENTH DIVISION (1.45): University II, Lincoln II, New College II, St Edmund Hall II, St John's II, St Peter's II, Keble II, Wadham II, Lincoln II, Corpus Christi II, Brasenose II, St Peter's II, Exeter II, St Catherine's II, St Edmund Hall II, Magdalen II.
EIGHTH DIVISION (12.55): Wadham II, St John's II, Trinity II, Keble II, Regent's Park, New College II, Lincoln II, Corpus Christi II, Brasenose II, St Peter's II, Exeter II, St Catherine's II, St Edmund Hall II, Magdalen II.

Women
FIRST DIVISION (8.15): Oslor House, New College, St John's, Pembroke, Somerville, St Catherine's, Brasenose, Jesus, Wadham, University, St Edmund Hall, St Anne's.
SECOND DIVISION (9.40): Oriel, Wadham, Christ Church, Hartford, Lady Margaret Hall, Keble, St John's, Worcester, Magdalen, Lincoln, Merton, St Hugh's.
THIRD DIVISION (10.45): Lincoln, Exeter, Somerville II, Balliol, Oslor House II, Trinity, New College II, Queen's, Mansfield, St Peter's, St John's II, Pembroke II.
FOURTH DIVISION (11.45): Corpus Christi, Lady Margaret Hall, University II, St John's II, Christ Church II, Keble II, Regent's Park, St Catherine's II, Wadham II, New College II, Oslor House II, St Edmund Hall II, Merton II, Wadham II, Lincoln II, St Anne's, St Catherine's II, Oriel II, Hartford II, St John's II, St Catherine's II, Oriel II, Lincoln II, Magdalen II or St Edmund Hall II.

Goodwood

Going good
2.10 (1m) 1. ORZA FUGIO (J. Red, 5-1 fav, 2-10) 2. No-Nan (R. Hughes, 20-1) 3. Fast (M. Hughes, 20-1) 4. ALSO RAN (2-10) 5. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 6. ALSO RAN (2-10) 7. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 8. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 9. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 10. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 11. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 12. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 13. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 14. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 15. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 16. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 17. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 18. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 19. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 20. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 21. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 22. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 23. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 24. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 25. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 26. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 27. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 28. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 29. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 30. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 31. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 32. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 33. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 34. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 35. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 36. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 37. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 38. Bayley (J. Red, 20-1) 39. 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RADIO CHOICE



Did you

Did you see the one about the secretaries?

When I was little, there was a game I played with a friend. We called it "Slaves". She would sit still reading a book, possible and about random commands such as, "Get me a glass of water", "Peel me a grape" and "Where's my diary?", while I ran around worriedly trying to keep up. After ten minutes of this torture, I would burst into tears and say "I've just remembered. I hate this game", and thus demonstrate to the world that when I grew up I would never be an ideal FA.

For, in last night's first I'll Just See If He's In (BBC2), a real-life show called Simon sat at his desk and yelled in precisely the same manner to his secretary, Caroline, in the next room. And it wasn't a game. "Caroline, get me a glass of water!" he called, without stirring his bum from his executive swivel. "Where's my diary, Caroline?" he inquired, without looking

for it. And Caroline, a tall, well-dressed woman of supreme good temperament, said she cared so much about him in return that she could protect Simon "to the death". Talk about mummy and daddy. The man evidently wrenched from the seat prematurely, Simon phoned his secretary, Caroline, when out of the office: in fact, he phoned her from the corridor, the stairwell, the car park, and the car (from which he could also wave).

I'll Just See If He's In is the sort of tell people talk about next morning; and for all broadcasters this criterion is surely the only one worth serving. Simon and Caroline were the undoubted stars of last night's first instalment, yet who can forget Julia and Bernie — harassed, pushy chaotic exec ruled by grim, blonde dominatrix? "What have you done with that?" Bernie demanded of Julia (her boss), inquiring after an important document. "Have you taken that

in?" she barked, after a briefing. Julia pluckily kept her spirits up under this interrogation, but was always relieved to dash for a taxi, and escape. When Julia re-entered the building, spies would phone the news director to Gestapo HQ, presumably so that Bernie could be ready with a dossier of list of accusations. Of course, the early warning system might equally serve a different, unthinkable function — as Bernie stubbed out her fag, slid her feet off the desk, and hid her well-thumbed Next Directory in the bin.

Elsewhere last night, the documentaries were perfectly adequate but less remarkable. For Network First (ITV), Yorkshire Television had made *Miss Popularity's Crack City*, about a prostitute in Nottingham whose drug addiction was unlikely to be conquered. Well made and beautifully filmed, it followed the



Lynne Truss

eponymous Miss Popularity (real name Karen) through a few months of doing nothing in particular, and also tracked the fortunes of Wendy, a childlike blonde 16-year-old, likewise a prostitute and crack addict.

This was clearly intended as a real-life *Band of Gold* — with Karen as Rose, and Wendy as Tracy. In fact, a Carol had likewise been lined up in the form of black Joanna, but something evidently went wrong with the plans here, because twice the narrator, Bill Paterson, informed us that Joanna "could not be identified for legal reasons", and she was left in shadow. Attention focused on a local organisation called Cat — the Crack Awareness Team — where addicts could go for advice. But though it was a fairly intimate portrait, it was obviously not the whole story. Where were the pimps? Where were the crack dealers? We all know it's not only failed willpower that prevents these women changing their lives.

Meanwhile, BBC's latest foray into uniform is *Flying Soldiers*, and as you might expect, they go down-diddly-up and they go down-diddly-down. I wish I could dredge up more enthusiasm, but apart from congratulating the producer on locating a yet untapped branch of the Services — the Army Air Corps — it's difficult

to throttle sufficiently here to get airborne. Whom did we meet last night? Well, just guess. We met a humble corporal called Michael and a Sandhurst-trained lieutenant called Andy. Michael had a hard time mastering the landings, but he managed in the end. Hooray. (Big drama, or what?)

To be fair, the aerial photography is executed with great skill. And to be honest, there are five more weeks to go. But I can't help wondering why a series commencing transmission in May 1996 should begin with the caption "February 1994" as though that was normal. Assuming that the course was a year long, it has still taken 15 months for *Flying Soldiers* to reach the screen. Perhaps Molly Dineen's series last year (plus the awful *Redcaps*) added up to squaddish saturation, and *Flying Soldiers* was postponed in its own interests. But it still seems odd.

Finally, get those hankies out. Arthur Fowler died last night in EastEnders (BBC1), and if I could represent teardrops typographically on this printed page I would do it. Big blobs. Smears. Puckered circles. Wet bits. "Why don't we sit down," the hospital doctor said to Pauline. "I'm afraid I've got some bad news." Wendy Richard looked stunned, and bit her thumb thoughtfully, while planning to the left (a personal way of indicating great distress). And then she saw Arthur's body, and held his hand, and cried "Oh Arthur", and oh, oh, oh, it was awful. Arthur was really dead! Elsewhere in the storylines, all the other couples cooed like doves, just to rub it in. Poor Pauline! Poor Arthur! Poor Mark! Since the day Bill Treacher announced his intended departure, Arthur's death has taken a full 18 months to occur. But in the end, it was too soon, oh Lord, too soon.

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

eponymous Miss Popularity (real name Karen) through a few months of doing nothing in particular, and also tracked the fortunes of Wendy, a childlike blonde 16-year-old, likewise a prostitute and crack addict.

This was clearly intended as a real-life *Band of Gold* — with Karen as Rose, and Wendy as Tracy. In fact, a Carol had likewise been lined up in the form of black Joanna, but something evidently went wrong with the plans here, because twice the narrator, Bill Paterson, informed us that Joanna "could not be identified for legal reasons", and she was left in shadow. Attention focused on a local organisation called Cat — the Crack Awareness Team — where addicts could go for advice. But though it was a fairly intimate portrait, it was obviously not the whole story. Where were the pimps? Where were the crack dealers? We all know it's not only failed willpower that prevents these women changing their lives.

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6.00am Business Breakfast (14822)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceelax) (32493)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceelax and signing) (4237919)

9.20 Style Counsel. Jeff Banks hosts the makeover show (s) (7333280)

9.45 Kilroy (s) (6667822)

10.00 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (83878)

12.30 News (Ceelax), regional news and weather (1643990)

12.05pm Call My Bluff (s) (5885822)

12.35 Going for Gold with the entertaining Henry Kelly (s) (4202342)

1.00 News (Ceelax) and weather (39342)

1.30 Regional News and weather (5262716)

1.40 Neighbours (Ceelax) (s) (6909029)

2.00 Snowy River — the McGregor Saga with Olivia Newton-John (s) (92261)

3.30 Playdays (s) (2302261) 3.50 The Silver Brumby (s) (2313377) 4.15 Funnies (s) (s) (2087930) 4.20 Johnny Briggs (s) (Ceelax) (38025)

4.35 Funnies (s) (Ceelax) (s) (2608008)

5.00 Newsround (Ceelax) (7907338)

5.10 Blue Peter (Ceelax) (s) (800445)

5.35 Neighbours (Ceelax) (s) (705648)

6.00 News (Ceelax) and weather (919)

6.30 Regional News Magazine (241)

7.00 Small Talk. Ronnie Corbett presents the show in which adult stars must guess the workings of a child's mind (Ceelax) (s) (7261)

7.30 Here and Now. Includes Mark Easton reporting on the German Panzer division which is leaving its base in Pembroke where it has been stationed since 1961 (Ceelax) (s) (483)

8.00 Casualty: Under the Weather. Hospital drama series. An adventure in a storm drain for two young boys leads to disaster (s) (Ceelax) (s) (342303)

8.50 Points of View. Members of the public air their views. With Anne Robinson (Ceelax) (s) (162445)

9.00 News (Ceelax), regional news and weather (6754)

9.30 Madson. In the last of the series, a long-overdue confrontation with DI Rourke reveals who really killed Madson's wife. With Ian McShane, Joanna Kanska and Matthew Marsh (Ceelax) (s) (224483)

10.20 QED: Brave Hearts (Ceelax) (s) (171087)

11.10 Barry Norman at the Cannes Film Festival. A report on the films, filmmakers, their guests and the publicity stunts all jostling for attention at the most famous international film festival in the calendar. This year's offerings include work from Stephen Frears, Bernardo Bertolucci, Spike Jonze and Mike Leigh (Ceelax) (s) (746735)

11.50 FILM: Prey of the Chameleon (1991) starring Daphne Zuniga, James Wilder and Alexandra Paul. A serial killer is on the loose. When a young man comes to the aid of a woman stranded by the roadside, he is unaware that he may be the next victim. Directed by Tex Fuller (Ceelax) (289193)

1.15am Weather (9467548)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE

7.00am Undun (14820) 9.00 Press Your Luck (14820) 9.30 Love Connection (14820) 9.45 Oprah Winfrey (421754)

10.00 Jeopardy! (1992919) 11.10 Sally Jessy Raphael (1992919) 12.00 Beauty (1992919) 12.30 The Tonight Show (1992919) 1.00am 3.30 Oprah Winfrey (421754) 4.15 Undun (14820) 4.45 The Tonight Show (1992919) 5.00 The Simpsons (2229) 6.30 Jeopardy! (421754) 7.00 LAPD (1992919) 7.30 M.A.S.H. 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Illingworth may be brought to book



Illingworth: outspoken

By JOHN GOODBODY

RAYMOND ILLINGWORTH is facing disciplinary action by the Test and County Cricket Board after remarks made in his book, *One Man Committee*, which reopen his dispute with Devon Malcolm, the England fast bowler. Any action against him could hasten the end of his involvement with the national team. His contract as chairman of selectors finishes at the end of the season.

In another contentious episode in Illingworth's controversial two-year tenure, the TCCB is to examine criticisms of Malcolm, including the statement that the player did not display "any trace of the fight or spunk we were entitled to expect from a strike bowler". The TCCB

has appointed Gerard Elias, QC, the chairman of the board's disciplinary committee, to decide whether Illingworth should face an investigative panel over the book, which is due to be published on June 13. Excerpts were yesterday published in a national newspaper.

In the book, Illingworth sums up his opinion of Malcolm by saying: "I think he tends to make too many excuses and gives the impression — rightly or wrongly — that he does not care sufficiently about anything." Illingworth says that the fast bowler "has wasted his time by having only half a career. He didn't want to listen and he will have to live with that — not me".

Technically, Illingworth was not required to send a draft of the book to the TCCB. Only players and

umpires need to do that. However, TCCB regulations, governing confidentiality, derogatory statements and bringing the game into disrepute still apply to Illingworth once any book or article is in its final form.

Elias said: "The fact that he is not under contract does not affect the

Indians beaten 43

issue. Ray Illingworth is on a committee of the TCCB and, as such, he is subject to the disciplines of the board. The committee will read the book and take whatever action it deems necessary."

In 1991, Chris Middleton, then the chairman of Derbyshire, was fined

£750 for criticisms of Micky Stewart's private coaching of Malcolm while with England. As a result, Middleton resigned from the TCCB's disciplinary committee.

The TCCB yesterday confirmed that Illingworth had only submitted the book in its final form and not as a draft and therefore they had no chance to assess it before publication. Derbyshire, Malcolm's county, yesterday formally protested about Illingworth's attack on the England fast bowler. However, the TCCB officials said the action would have been taken even without Derbyshire's complaint.

Reg Taylor, the Derbyshire secretary said: "Lord's have told us that they will be looking at this seriously. You have a situation here where Devon is obviously picking himself

off the ground after what happened in the winter. He was doing that successfully until yesterday afternoon and here we are once again with him having his feet knocked from under him."

Asked if Illingworth's position could be jeopardised, Taylor replied: "It is up to the board to decide if he can still do the job. I would be amazed if we did not have the support of other counties in our stance on this."

Illingworth and Malcolm had a series of public disagreements during the tour of South Africa last winter. Malcolm was blamed by Illingworth for costing his side defeat in the final Test in Cape Town by failing to dismiss Paul Adams, who went on to share a 73-run stand with Dave Richardson. In the article

in *The Daily Express* yesterday, Illingworth said that when "he was asked the big question, he sank without displaying any trace of the fight and spunk we were entitled to expect from a strike bowler."

Malcolm, who then returned home while England stayed to play a series of one-day internationals, attacked Illingworth's treatment of him in the press. This unauthorised action ended with the bowler donating his newspaper article fee to charity following a Lord's inquiry.

Illingworth insisted that he was within his rights to express his views in the book, saying: "I do not think I have slagged anyone off in the book. I think I have been fair. I have simply used my right of reply to Devon. I have not had a chance to do that before."

Bishop in final attempt to avert club breakaway

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE nightmare scenario that has haunted English rugby union since the decision, last August, that the sport should accept professionalism, may become reality on Friday. The leading clubs have lost patience with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) leadership and the result could be a split, damaging not only to both sides but also to the game in the northern hemisphere.

Bill Bishop, the RFU president, has called an emergency meeting of his union's full committee at the Hilton Hotel in London, at which the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc) is likely to make a presentation. If the committee, dominated by representatives of the counties, does not accept its case, then England's top 20 clubs are prepared to go their own way.

"Negotiations have dragged on and on and we feel we have to bring matters to a conclusion," Donald Kerr, the Epruc chairman, said yesterday. "We need to know where we stand for next season. We feel

that Cliff Brittle is determined to force us to leave the union."

Brittle, elected chairman of the RFU executive committee only last January by an overwhelming majority of junior club representatives, has become the *bête noire* for Epruc. In discussions last week, both RFU and club negotiators made concessions in the hope of bringing the two factions together, only to find them vetoed by Brittle. At one stage last Friday, it was believed

Cardiff's vision 43

that agreement was in the offing over a competitive structure and contractual issues for next season, but such hopes proved over-optimistic.

Bishop, who has acted as independent chairman in the most recent discussions, said: "I received a letter from the Epruc negotiating team, saying they had come to the end of the line and would recommend to their member clubs

that they break away from the union."

Some clubs are already putting in place the mechanism that will take them away from a union to which they have been affiliated for more than a century. Draft constitutions, which will require the approval of club members, refer to the "union, body or organisation of which the club shall be a member", deleting specific reference to the RFU.

The clubs have always insisted that they do not seek a breakaway, which would be a costly extravagance and would cut them off from all the logistic support — administration, referees, development — that the RFU offers. "There is a spirit within the committee that might want the same thing as the clubs," one source said last night. "Everyone thinks this has gone on far too long and it's time decisions were made."

Should a breakaway occur, the RFU will not have solved the problem because there are other ambitious clubs outside the Epruc umbrella which will inevitably seek the same objectives unless some catastrophe overwhelms clubs such as Bath, Leicester and Harlequins as a result of their declaration of independence.

Those clubs, though, include all the present England team members, several of whom have agreed long-term contracts which hinge upon access to television money. If the clubs can offer what is, in effect, an England XV, they expect to be able to do business with the broadcasters, and possibly with the other home unions, who have become so exasperated with the RFU's own stance over television rights that they are on the verge of casting them out of the five nations' championship.

A strong, unified England is central to northern hemisphere rugby. If the clubs carry out their threat, the only likely winners are television interests, who could pluck any plans they wanted from organisations in desperate need of funding — and that includes the RFU with its £34 million debt on Twickenham.



Torrance drives over the water at the 5th in the big-money match with Montgomerie, his fellow Scot, yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Torrance ensures prosperous new year

By JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

SAM TORRANCE and Colin Montgomerie, a brace of Scots, did a bit of forward planning at The Oxfordshire yesterday afternoon and consequently have settled their arrangements for the next Hogmanay.

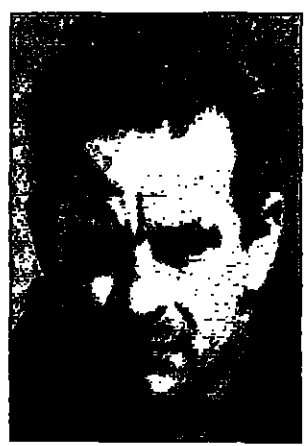
As a result of beating Montgomerie by 3 and 1 in the final of the European regional qualifying competition for the Andersen Consulting world championship of golf, Torrance will be competing in Arizona over the new year. Montgomerie will be free to go first-footing at his home in Oxshott, Surrey, or Scotland.

Torrance often roams the fairways with his head down, as if looking for something. Yesterday, he found it. A professional for more than a quarter of a century, his biggest win hitherto had been just in excess of £100,000. Yet, after winning three matches in two days here, he earned, as near as no matter, £200,000 and the chance to increase it to nearly £700,000 if he is successful in the United States.

Little wonder that he was wearing a smile as broad as the Clyde.

Last year, Montgomerie and Torrance fought tooth and nail for the order of merit before Montgomerie triumphed with the last stroke of the final event of the year.

Torrance's victory here was some compensation for losing out then and also a feather in his cap. He played very tidily, not necessarily good stroke-play golf but very good



Torrance: largest prize

matchplay golf. Having struck three decisive blows, on the 7th, 8th and 9th, which he covered with an eagle and two birdies to move to three up, Torrance hit a beautiful chip to save par and gain a half on the 11th. This stopped Montgomerie from cutting the lead to one hole.

Montgomerie won the 16th with a par, but Torrance administered the *coup de grâce* on the 17th. This was where the 500 spectators wanted the deed to be done, because they wanted to see how the two men would play the hole that, in the past week, has had every score from three to 13, except 12, registered on it.

Montgomerie's second shot was the better, played with his feet below the ball from a fluffy lie across the water, but then Torrance hit a beautiful pitch through the wind to within a foot and Montgomerie failed to sink his putt.

"I didn't play well," Montgomerie said. "I seemed to be hitting everything high and to the right. The game changed when I went birdie, par, par on the 7th, 8th and 9th

and lost them all. Sam plays well on confidence. The worse I played, the better he played." Montgomerie was not without compensation. He had earned himself £100,000, or more

than £2,000 a hole for two days' work.

RESULTS: Sam Torrance (Scot) to M. A. Jiménez (Spa) 6 and 4; C. Montgomerie (Scot) to B. Langer (Ger) 4 and 3. Final: Torrance to Montgomerie 3 and 1.

MORSE

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Sun Microsystems' new range of Ultra Enterprise servers return quite stunning results in standard bench testing.

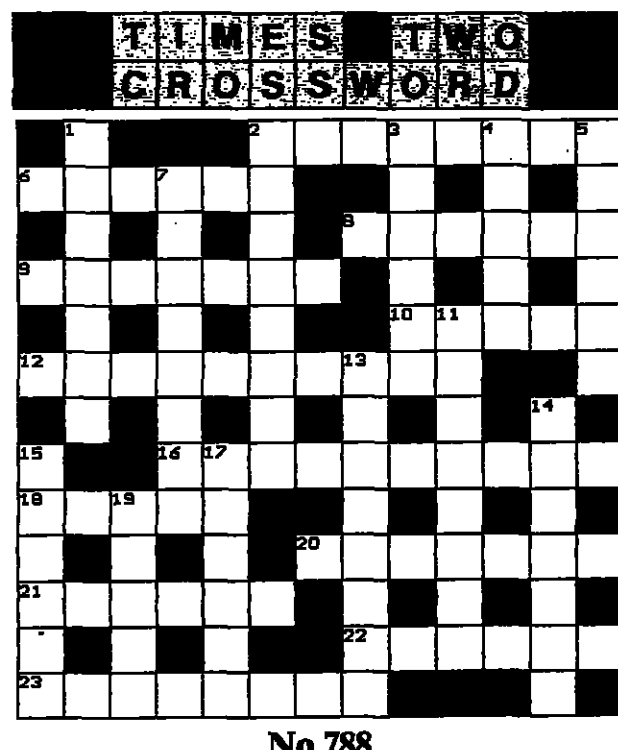
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No 788

ACROSS

- 2 Overdrawn (2,3,3)
- 6 Place of incarceration (6)
- 8 Finally (2,4)
- 9 Muscular animal; type of clip (7)
- 10 Up and about (5)
- 12 *Light of the World* painter (6,4)
- 16 Fail in search (4,1,5)
- 18 Divided Asian peninsula (5)
- 20 Relieve itch (7)
- 21 Ill-will (6)
- 22 Possible choice (6)
- 23 Caller across Swiss valley (8)

SOLUTION TO NO 787

- ACROSS: 5 Cause célèbre 8 Almond 9 Versus 10 Soho 12 Subside 14 Matador 15 Oath 17 Stuart 18 Amoeba 20 Asphyxiation

- DOWN: 1 Ecclesiastes 2 Judo 3 Fervour 4 Nebraska 6 Eddy 7 Round the bend 11 Hlawatha 13 Context 16 Java 19 Ovid

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 783

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

- ACROSS: 1 Gush 3 Caribolic 8 Frontal 10 Sigh 11 Word-perfect 13 Aplomb 15 Avenue 17 Evangelical 20 Haiku 21 Inertia 22 Dogberry 23 Phil

- DOWN: 1 Gift-wrap 2 Scour 4 Allure 5 Baskerville 6 Lighten 7 Cute 9 Tape-measure 12 Keelhaul 14 Leering 16 Ughier 18 Catch 19 Chad

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic or international network is K M Tutt, Beauchamp, Leicester.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic network is G Howard Luck, Hastings. All flights subject to availability.

Euro 96 coins enjoy royal approval

Andrew Longmore on a breakthrough for European championship merchandising

THE Euro 96 merchandising operation has been granted the royal seal of approval. A £5 coin, circulated only in the Isle of Man, features a footballer and the Euro 96 logo on the obverse of the queen's effigy. Coin experts believe that this is the first time that the monarch has appeared on the flip side of a registered trademark on a coin used as legal tender.

The coin has been minted by Pobjoy Mint, official licensee of the Peter Rabbit and Star Trek trademarks, and is one of a number of products for the European championship by the Surrey-based company, which has also won the license for Euro 96 commemorative coinage. The Isle of Man has its own coinage, but uses the head of the Queen in her official capacity as the Lord of Man. The £5 coin is common currency on

the island. Another coin, a commemorative crown with Goallish, the mascot for Euro 96, on one side and the Queen's head on the other, is also the first four-colour coin to be circulated in Gibraltar. The company gained ap-

proval for its designs from Buckingham Palace, but some eyebrows have been raised at the commercial implications of the historic endorsement.

Attempts by the Royal Mint to produce its own commemorative



Gibraltar's colourful coin that celebrates Euro 96



At Pobjoy Mint, a family firm that has become the largest private mint in Europe, the problems begin when the first football is kicked, on June 8. Emotionally, John Smith wants England to be the European champions, but business dictates a different victor. Germany is the biggest coin-collecting nation in Europe.

Robson's mission, page 44
Business booms, page 46